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The Boxer's Sister

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The Boxer's Sister

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
University of New Orleans
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts
in
Film, Theatre and Communication Arts
Creative Writing

by

Sandra Sharp Dummit
B.A. Sacramento State University, 1986

May, 2008

FADE IN:

INT. BOXING GYM -- NIGHT

Small, moldy boxing gym. A few random light bulbs are burned out, electrical wires hang loose from the ceiling.

In one corner, an over aged white boxer jumps rope. The RHYTHM from the jump rope echoes throughout the gym.

CHAD MILLER, 24, Caucasian, warrior build with a well beaten face, and a tattoo on his arm of a heart with *MOM* written across it; spars in the ring with TOMMY, 22, thinner and not so strong. Both wear torn, stained gear. The sound of leather as it strikes skin followed by groans interrupts the sound from the jump rope.

LARRY WHITMAN, 47, small and smelly, a white towel around his neck; watches from outside the ring. Larry holds a Chihuahua, ROCKY.

Chad fights in an unchallenged, bored manner. Tommy is clearly in over his head.

SOPHIE MILLER, 20, Caucasian, pretty enough, wears jeans, tank top and a pony tail; clumsily plays around on a speed bag.

A TIMER RINGS, Chad punches Tommy late. Tommy, stunned, looks towards Larry. Larry shakes his head and offers Tommy a hand as he climbs out of the ring, then hands Rocky over to Tommy. Tommy, clumsy with his gloves on and weak from his fight, almost drops Rocky. Annoyed, Larry grabs Rocky back and stuffs him in his hoodie. Rocky adjusts himself in the hoodie and sticks his head out.

Chad looks over at Sophie before climbing out of the ring. Larry takes a few steps over to Chad, stands in front of him as he tries to gain Chad's full attention.

LARRY

You ass-wipe. You sick bastard.

Chad looks over Larry's head towards Sophie.

CHAD

Whatever.

Chad reaches out to pat Rocky on the head. Rocky SNARLS.

Will SUMMERS, 26, Cuban, with kind eyes that contradict his solid tough guy build, freshly showered, jeans, wife beater and gym bag, enters the gym from a back door with a hand made sign that says "Locker Room" with graffiti over it that says "Shit Hole."

He eyes Sophie, who hasn't noticed him yet, then puts his gym bag down, sneaks up on her and hits the speed bag, which accidentally bops her on the head. They LAUGH.

Sophie is uncomfortable as she feels Chad watching from across the room. Sophie turns away from Will then walks towards the door, grabs a jean jacket that hangs on a hook with half a dozen jump ropes. Sophie exits the gym.

Chad narrows his eyes and pulls off his gloves as he watches Will grab his gym bag and exit the gym.

EXT. BOXING GYM -- NIGHT

There is a chi-chi restaurant next to the gym with tables outside and some outdoor heaters. A few people deep in conversation sit at a table and drink wine.

Will steps outside of the gym, Sophie leans against the outside wall as she shivers from the cold and enjoys a long drag from a cigarette. One of the restaurant patrons gives Sophie a nasty look. Will walks up to her, gently takes her cigarette and kisses her. He sticks his hand out, offers the snarly restaurant patron the cigarette. When his offer is rudely ignored, Will holds the cigarette to Sophie's mouth so she can take one more drag, then he drops the cigarette on the sidewalk and squishes it with his boot while he kisses Sophie again.

SOPHIE
Chad will kill us both.

WILL
I'm not scared of Chad.

SOPHIE
You should be.

They kiss more urgently.

INT. WILL'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Sophie and Will sleep in a sparse bedroom. There are boxing trophies and one boxing poster featuring "Will Summers" on the wall. Wraps hang over the door and Sophie's jean jacket hangs over a chair. Clothes are tossed randomly on the floor.

Will wakes, admires Sophie, kisses her forehead.

WILL
Happy Birthday, chica.

Sophie wakes. Looks at the clock that sits on the night stand, it is nearly noon. She jumps out of bed.

SOPHIE

Holy Shit!

Sophie dances around the room and gathers her clothes.

WILL

What the hell?

Will sits up and looks at Sophie as if she has just gone bonkers.

SOPHIE

Lunch, duh?!? Chad gets so pissed when I'm late....

WILL

So, let him be pissed.

Will grabs his jeans off the floor and tries to put his leg in but the pant legs are inside out.

Sophie pulls her tank over her head then sees Will as he struggles to put his pants on.

SOPHIE

What are you doing?

WILL

Getting dressed, maybe?

SOPHIE

Why?

WILL

Why?

SOPHIE

Why are you getting dressed? You're not going anywhere.

Sophie, now dressed, grabs her purse and heads towards the door. Will, only one leg in his pants grabs her by the arm.

WILL

I can't keep this up.

Sophie, now playful, kisses Will and grabs him by the balls.

SOPHIE

Oh, I'm sure you can.

Sophie escapes the room, leaving Will behind.

INT. DINING ROOM -- DAY

Lower middle class dining room decorated in tacky Christmas. A grocery store birthday cake, candles lit, sits on the middle of the table.

Sitting around the dining room table with Chad and Sophie, are MOM, 53, pale and frumpy, and DANIELLE ALEXANDER, 21, almost anorexic with too much makeup.

Sophie blows out the candles. Everyone claps. Mom snaps together plastic champagne glasses, pours cheap champagne in them then passes them around.

MOM

If only your dad was here today to say a toast.

Chad stands up and raises his glass. Danielle admires Chad. Sophie takes a big sip from her glass before raising her now half empty glass of champagne to Chad.

CHAD

This is what dad would want me to say to you today-

SOPHIE

Good thing he isn't here.

CHAD

-Twenty-one, but always my little sister. I'm still here to protect you from all the scum out there.

Everyone takes a drink except for Sophie.

SOPHIE

Ain't I the lucky one.

MOM

Yes you are.

Mom cuts the cake, puts pieces on paper plates and passes them out with plastic forks. Sophie eats only the icing. Danielle eats hardly anything. Mom eats exactly half of her cake. Chad eats his entire piece in two bites.

SOPHIE

So doesn't anyone want to know what I wished for?

DANIELLE

You know that it's bad luck to tell your wish.

SOPHIE
I think that's just bull shit.

MOM
Sophie!

Chad pours himself some more champagne.

SOPHIE
For my entire life I have kept my birthday wishes a secret, and not a one of them has come true. So I think we have this all ass backwards and we should be screaming out to the entire world what our birthday wishes are!

Danielle hands her empty glass towards Chad. Chad pushes the nearly empty bottle of champagne towards her.

MOM
That's not true.

Danielle pours the few remaining drops of Champagne into her glass.

SOPHIE
What?

Chad gets up and walks into the kitchen.

MOM
That can't be true. Everyone has had wishes come true.

Sophie throws her arms up in disbelief.

MOM (CONT'D)
Maybe you've just wished for the wrong things?

Chad returns with a can of generic beer and takes a swig.

SOPHIE
And who decides whether a wish is good enough to come true?

MOM
At twenty-one Chad was bundled in my arms. I wish you, my Sophie, to have the same happiness that I was blessed with.

SOPHIE
SEE!!!!

Sophie slams her fist on the table.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
That's a God awful wish!

MOM
One day you'll see that I'm right.

Mom kisses Chad on the forehead, clears the dishes from the table, then walks into the kitchen.

Chad burps.

Sophie rolls her eyes at Chad, gets up, helps her mom clear the table, exits into the kitchen. Danielle methodically tears her napkin into little bits.

DANIELLE
So Chad, Sophie and I are drinking at The Brewery tonight, you should come.

CHAD
I don't know why you hang there.

Danielle stands up and moves directly behind Chad.

DANIELLE
Where should we hang?

CHAD
How 'bout anywhere but there? Soph doesn't need her fake ID anymore...you can go anywhere.

DANIELLE
Soph likes it there.

CHAD
It's a dump.

Danielle awkwardly starts massaging his shoulders.

DANIELLE
If you change your mind.....come slum with us.

Chad picks up a birthday candle from the table and breaks it in half.

CHAD
I'd wish that that shit Will Summer's would get the fucking shit beat out of him and never get into the ring again.

DANIELLE

Okay then. That's a pleasant birthday wish.

Danielle moves away from Chad, clears some dishes from the table. As Danielle walks into the kitchen, Sophie returns to the dining room from the kitchen. As they pass each other Danielle give Sophie a 'help me look' and tilts her head towards Chad.

SOPHIE

So, you're still leading her on.

CHAD

I haven't made her no promises.

SOPHIE

So she knows about that skank you've been doing?

Chad stands up and grabs his plate from the table just as Sophie is about to.

CHAD

No, and she better not find out from you.

INT. THE BREWERY -- NIGHT

Small bar with a tiny dance area, music comes from a boom box behind the bar. Most of the bar stools and tables are occupied. No cosmopolitans served in this bar.

Sophie and Danielle sit at the bar with a beer in front of them. Danielle too frequently looks up at the door.

SOPHIE

He's not coming.

Danielle unbuttons a few buttons on her shirt, which would reveal cleavage if there was any.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

My brother's a crazy shit, he thinks he's too good to hang with us.

Sophie re-buttons Danielle's shirt.

DANIELLE

Maybe we should have gone somewhere nicer.

Sophie rolls her eyes. Danielle clears her throat. Sophie looks up. Will walks in, sees them and walks over. He looks over at the BARTENDER.

BARTENDER

Will.

The bartender and Will pound fists together in greeting.

WILL

Three shots of tequila, por favor.

BARTENDER

Si, amigo.

The bartender pours.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Uno...dos...tres.

Sophie, Danielle and Will clink and drink. Danielle almost chokes and can't get the entire shot down. Will drinks his shot like water, smiles as he watches Sophie savor the tequila. Sophie shakes her head at Will, smiles, happy to see him. Danielle sets her not quite empty shot glass down on the counter, Sophie picks it up and drinks the remaining tequila.

WILL

How was lunch?

SOPHIE

Boring.

WILL

I should have been there.

SOPHIE

I will take boring over a blood bath any day, thank you.

DANIELLE

What are you guys talking about?

SOPHIE

Never mind.

WILL

Sophie thinks that her brother won't approve of the two of us dating.

Sophie rolls her eyes and holds her shot glass out to the bartender who fills it with tequila. Sophie downs it.

DANIELLE

You two are dating?

Sophie and Will give Danielle an innocent child look.

INT. BATHROOM AT THE BREWERY -- NIGHT

Sophie and Danielle sit on a windowsill, the window open as they share a cigarette. They each have a bottle of Bud with them.

SOPHIE
Not a word.

DANIELLE
Chad will shit.

SOPHIE
Not if you don't tell him.

Danielle reaches for the cigarette from Sophie but Sophie pulls it back.

DANIELLE
Okay...I won't say anything.

Sophie hands Danielle the cigarette.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
But he is so going to just shit.

Sophie smiles to herself.

SOPHIE
Yep.

DANIELLE
Hello?????

Sophie looks blankly at Danielle. Danielle has an "ah-ha" moment.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
You want Chad to find out?

Sophie looks content.

SOPHIE
Can you think of anything that would piss him off more than this?

Danielle thinks on this.

DANIELLE
Will's not even your type.

SOPHIE
What do you mean?

DANIELLE

You don't date nice boys.

Two prissy girls walk in. They have on college sweaters, too much hair, too much make-up, and too much cleavage; they fake cough when they see Sophie and Danielle smoking.

Danielle stares at Sophie and takes a long drag on her cigarette.

Sophie holds out her pack of cigarettes to the prissy girls. The prissy girls look disgusted and then go into a stall together.

SOPHIE

That's why I never went to college.

Sophie and Danielle toast their beer bottles.

SNORTING sounds come from the bathroom stall. (OC)

DANIELLE

What has Chad done that's so bad to you?

SOPHIE

For starters, he ruins everything. Nothing I do is good enough. No one I date is good enough. He ruins every relationship I've had.

DANIELLE

Relationships? Is that what you call your fling-y fling things now?

The prissy girls exit the bathroom stall. One of them wipes her nose and checks herself in the cracked mirror.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

And yo, don't you know that is so eighties?

Danielle turns back to Sophie.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

He loves you, that's all Sophie, he loves you.

SOPHIE

He's mean, that's all Danielle, he's mean.

INT. THE BREWERY- NIGHT

Sophie and Danielle walk back to Will, who nurses a beer. Sophie takes the beer away from him, places it on the bar, takes Will by the hand and leads him out to the dance floor. They dance sexy hot together.

A GUY, loser trying not to be a loser, comes up to Danielle. Danielle, looks annoyed and bored, moves one bar stool over. Danielle takes a camera from her purse and takes a picture of Sophie and Will.

Sophie and Will kiss at the end of the dance, then Sophie walks over to Danielle and pulls her out onto the dance floor and the three of them dance. After a few moments another guy comes up and starts dancing with Danielle. Sophie starts dancing as close as she can to Will.

SOPHIE

You want to know what my birthday wish is?

INT. BOXING GYM -- DAY

Chad trains on a speed bag. Larry walks up. Rocky sticks his head out of Larry's sweatshirt.

LARRY

Got a fight for you.

Chad quickly makes eye contact then returns his concentration to the bag.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Rodrequez.

Chad tilts his head, bored, still works on the speed bag. Larry moves closer to Chad. Rocky gets spooked, so close to the speed bag, and pulls his head inside of Larry's sweatshirt.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Fighting Rodrequez beneath you?
Pass on it. See if I care.

Larry turns and slowly walks away.

LARRY (CONT'D)

The winner of the match goes on to the Western States Championship. If Will Summers wins his fight against Cortez -

INT. BEDROOM - SOPHIE'S -- NIGHT

Cheap box apartment bedroom decorated on a budget. A few stuffed animals, jewelry boxes, no posters. Sophie and Will are cuddly in bed. Sophie smokes a cigarette.

SOPHIE

Holy shit.

WILL

Holy shit.

SOPHIE

Summers and Miller. A rematch.

WILL

This is what he's been waiting for.

SOPHIE

This is not good.

WILL

I want this fight.

SOPHIE

I don't want you to fight my brother.

Will gives Sophie his 'are you bonkers' look.

WILL

You don't want your brother to get hurt?

SOPHIE

I don't want you to get hurt.

WILL

I should be offended right now. But I think that you care about me more than you want to admit. And I like that.

SOPHIE

Don't get all mushy now.

WILL

You are falling in love with me.

SOPHIE

I don't fall in love. I just play.

Will gives Sophie a playful look before diving under the covers.

INT. OFFICE -- DAY

Sophie and Danielle are in their side-by-side cubicles, divided by a partition wall. They can't see each other, but they talk to each other as if they are in a coffee shop. They input data into a computer.

DANIELLE
That's code for he loves you. Your
little game is working.

SOPHIE
I don't want him to love me.

DANIELLE
Right. Whatever.

SOPHIE
If he loves me, why wouldn't he just
come out and say it?

Sophie stops inputting data and sits back to enjoy her coffee and conversation.

DANIELLE
Telling the truth is dangerous.

SOPHIE
Oh right, God knows telling the truth
is a bad thing.

DANIELLE
So should I be truthful with Chad,
and tell him how much I like him?

SOPHIE
No!

Sophie spills her coffee on a data entry sheet, looks around, quickly crumples the paper and throws it away.

DANIELLE
But I really do like him.

Danielle keeps up with her data input. Sophie doodles on her calendar and then, more seriously, counts days on the calendar.

SOPHIE
I know you really like him. He knows
you really like him.

Sophie writes the number 27 on a date on the calendar and slowly keeps counting the days forward to the January 8th.

DANIELLE
You think he knows?

Sophie mouths "no shit."

SOPHIE
Is today the 8th?

DANIELLE
All day long. He isn't seeing anyone else, is he? I'm feeling this may be getting close to becoming exclusive.

SOPHIE
Shit. Shit.

Sophie draws fiercely over the calendar.

DANIELLE
What? He is -

SOPHIE
I think he'll need to be schooled on that whole exclusive concept.

DANIELLE
So....what should I do?

SOPHIE
Find someone else to *really* like?

MIKE, 27, in a cheap suit, slightly geeky, hangs over Sophie's cubicle, tapping his fingers.

DANIELLE
Like who???

Sophie looks up at Mike.

SOPHIE
Oh, what about that hot new manager?

DANIELLE
You don't mean that geek do you?

Sophie throws her arms up into the air and looks up at Mike with a "go figure" look.

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Small boxy room, is open to kitchen and dining area. The furniture looks rented. A few cheap prints of flowers on the walls, and some droopy, not dead yet, not quite alive plants are on the coffee table.

There is a small shopping bag next to the couch.

Sophie sits on the couch and grabs the shopping bag. She takes out a college class catalog, looks at it then pulls a pregnancy test kit out of the bag.

She gets up, the pregnancy kit falls on the floor, she tosses the catalog in the waste basket, grabs a beer from the fridge, looks out the window at the view - a row of boxy apartments.

She takes the catalog out of the waste basket and sits back down. She picks up the beer and the pregnancy kit.

Danielle walks in. Sophie quickly puts the items back in the shopping bag.

DANIELLE

Hey Chica.

Danielle steps out of her shoes, grabs a beer from the fridge, sits down, puts her feet up on the coffee table, grabs the remote and turns the TV on. A reality show is on. A typical party girl is drinking in a hot tub with a typical jock boy.

SOPHIE

I hate this shit.

DANIELLE

You TiVo it.

SOPHIE

For you bitch.

Sophie and Danielle instantly become engrossed in the show.

DANIELLE

I don't see why she stays with him.

SOPHIE

She's a bitch.

DANIELLE

He's hot.

SOPHIE

She's stupid.

DANIELLE

Oh, and you're a brain surgeon?

The couple on TV get more intimate.

SOPHIE

No condom.

DANIELLE
Sometimes you are so strange.

SOPHIE
Do you see them whipping out a condom?

DANIELLE
Everyone uses a condom, duh.

Danielle turns the volume up, Sophie grabs her shopping bag. Sophie gets up and walks out of the room, flipping Danielle off behind her back, while Danielle simultaneously is doing the same to Sophie.

INT. SOPHIE'S BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Sophie sits on the toilet and stares at the pregnancy test she holds. She makes the sign of the cross, puts the test between her legs, closes her eyes and pees. She places the pregnancy test on the counter, grabs the college catalog from the shopping bag and flips through the pages. She sneaks glances at the test and then at her watch.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
OMG!!! Sophie get your ass out here,
the bitch chick and slut girl are at
it...

SOPHIE
At it as in making out or fighting?

Sophie looks at her watch, wipes and pulls up her jeans.

DANIELLE
It's a girl fight!!! Bitch chick
just clawed slut girl's face and I
see blood!

Sophie takes a deep breath.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Holy shit!

Sophie looks at the pregnancy test.

SOPHIE
Holy shit.

INT. BOXING GYM -- DAY

Chad spars in the ring. Larry watches from just outside the ropes, Rocky pokes his head out of Larry's hoodie to watch. Will enters the gym and heads towards the locker room, he pauses to watch Chad. Chad sees Will, his SPARRING PARTNER gets an upper cut in followed by a hook to the chin.

Chad's face swings to the side from the impact as his focus remains on Will. Will suppresses a laugh.

Chad returns his concentration to his sparring partner, increases his attack and knocks him down. Larry climbs into the ring, kneels next to the sparring partner, puts Rocky down. Rocky licks the Sparring Partners face and the sparring partner slowly opens his eyes and looks at Rocky.

SPARRING PARTNER

Yo, Rocky.

Chad stands back, oblivious to his sparring partner, and looks for Will but finds him already heading for the locker room.

The sparring partner stands up and shakes his head. Chad takes notice that his sparring partner is up. Chad dances around ready to resume the fight. Larry picks up Rocky and sticks him back inside his hoodie, Rocky sticks his head out to watch.

LARRY

This fights over.

The sparring partner cracks his neck and climbs out of the ring.

Chad shadowboxes around Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Don't ever, in my gym, treat a sparring partner like that ever again.

CHAD

(casually)

You gonna take care of Summers?

LARRY

If I was a braver man, I'd be telling you to leave my gym. This is MY gym, don't you forget.

Chad looks down at Rocky and smiles.

CHAD

And don't you forget I'm the star of this gym.

Chad climbs out of the ring. Larry climbs out after him and puts Rocky down on the ground to run around.

Will opens the locker room door to enter the gym, Chad walks through the door as if Will is his doorman. Will follows Chad into the locker room with his eyes.

Chad looks over his shoulder at Will. It's a stare down. Rocky runs up to Will, Will picks up Rocky. Rocky starts to lick Will's face. Chad watches for a second before he turns and walks into the locker room.

WILL
Yo Rocky, how's life?

Will sits down on a weight bench, puts Rocky down and starts to put on his wraps. One wrap is draped around his neck, while he is busy with the first hand. Larry steps up.

LARRY
You ever been to that gym on 42nd?

Larry takes over wrapping Will's hands for him.

WILL
That shit hole?

Larry looks around at the shit hole they are in.

LARRY
And this ain't no shit hole.

Will looks around.

WILL
This shit hole is home.

Rocky lays on his back, next to the ring. The only noises are the TINY SNORES from Rocky. Larry finishes with one hand and grabs for Will's other hand to wrap.

Larry takes the wrap from around Will's neck and starts to wrap Will's other hand.

LARRY
Well, but Chad ain't happy with you training here. It can't be a good thing for either of ya's. Distracting each other and shit.

WILL
Then I say that Chad can move over to that other shit hole.

JACKSON, big black guy, walks into the gym and looks none too happy when he sees Larry with Will.

LARRY
Well, well, the way Chad sees it is that he's been training here for a lot longer than you, so it should be you that leaves.

WILL
Seems to me then, that Chad and I
just ain't seeing things eye to eye,
are we?

LARRY
Listen, I understand what you're
saying.

WILL
Good, then you'll have no problem
explaining it to Chad.

Jackson walks over to Will and Larry.

JACKSON
I'll take over here.

LARRY
We were just finished.

JACKSON
Good enough.

Larry walks into the locker room. Jackson unwraps Larry's
work and starts to re-wrap Will's hands.

WILL
This is my gym.

JACKSON
Go get some fresh air.

Will grabs a jump rope from the wall hooks and walks out the
front door of the gym.

Jackson walks to the locker room, opens the door and pauses
as he overhears Larry and Chad talking.

CHAD (O.S.)
Is he doing my sister?

LARRY (O.S.)
None of my business. And none of
yours, either, if you know what's
good for you.

A BANG from a fist slamming against a locker. (O.S.)

CHAD (O.S.)
It is my business.

LARRY (O.S.)
Don't get yourself in trouble before
the fight. It's not worth it, Chad,
just not worth it.

CHAD (O.S.)
I'll kill that bastard. I swear to
God, Larry, if he has touched my
sister he's a dead man.

Jackson doesn't move, he just takes everything in.

LARRY (O.S.)
Why don't you let her live her own
life?

CHAD (O.S.)
You don't understand.

LARRY (O.S.)
What I do understand is that he
deserved that fight.

In a very calculated manner Jackson slowly and quietly taps
his fingers on the door.

CHAD (O.S.)
I gave him all I had.

LARRY (O.S.)
Winning a fight isn't just about
what you give...it's about how much
of a beating you can take and still
be able to fight back.

CHAD (O.S.)
Oh, I can take a beating.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Will stops to watch some young girls jump rope. Two of the
girls are hot-footing it, Will is impressed. Will begins
his own fancy jump rope work. The group of kids watch him,
then try to outdo him. Will plays along, and tries to out-
do them. An audience of children forms around them. Sophie
arrives, joins the group of kids.

SOPHIE
Show off.

Will looks up and sees Sophie in the crowd of children.

WILL
Show off? Me?

Will hands his rope to Sophie. Sophie starts a simple jump rope rhythm. Will clears his throat and laughs.

Sophie trips over the rope and falls. Will catches her before she hits the ground. The kids laugh at her.

Two girls start twirling the long rope, one twirling on each end, Sophie recovers and jumps in the middle.

Will watches. The kids start to clap out a rhythm. Sophie skips confidently, winks at Will in her glory. Her dress flutters up a bit too high and she quickly adjusts it by holding it down with her hands.

Another girl prepares to jump in with Sophie, Will stops her and jumps in himself. The children LAUGH. The children begin to chant.

GIRLS

First comes love, then comes marriage,
then comes baby....

Sophie trips on the rope.

GIRLS (CONT'D)

...in a baby carriage.

Sophie and Will fall. Everyone LAUGHS. Will helps Sophie up and they walk toward a willow tree in the park.

WILL

Chad thinks that I should move over
to that gym on 42nd Street.

SOPHIE

Probably not a bad idea. But, I
don't think you should.

Will sits down at the base of the willow tree.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

But, then, maybe you should just
give in this once.

Will pulls Sophie down next to him.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Or not.

WILL

Decisive, eh?

SOPHIE

Some decisions are best left up to
the flip of a coin.

WILL
Philosophical, we are, Yoda?

SOPHIE
Just got some things on my mind.

Will brushes some grass off of Sophie's dress.

WILL
Such as?

SOPHIE
Nothing.

WILL
Nothing?

Will kisses Sophie.

SOPHIE
Okay. I had an appointment at the
college admissions office.

Will pulls back a few inches.

WILL
Here, at State?

SOPHIE
Yep.

WILL
That's great.

SOPHIE
You think so?

WILL
Sure I do, but what's important is
what you think.

SOPHIE
I don't know what I think.

WILL
You don't have any dreams?

Will picks some dandelions and sticks them in Sophie's hair.

SOPHIE
Dreams? Like living in a big house
with a maid and butler and a....

WILL
Like being the world heavy weight
boxing champ.

SOPHIE
Nope....never wanted to box.

WILL
What do you want?

SOPHIE
Why do you want to box?

Will picks another flower and takes the petals off, very deliberately, one by one.

WILL
Because it is me out there, me against
one other man. I have to be smart,
fast and strong, alert, I can't miss
any move my opponent makes. To beat
a good, no, a great fighter, I have
to be perfect. I have to know what
my opponent is going to do before he
knows it himself. I have to be
everything, all at the same time. I
can't be sloppy, or lazy, or
apprehensive. Boxing is the perfect
competition...it is the purist form
of man against man.

Sophie's impressed.

SOPHIE
I thought you just liked to beat up
my brother.

Sophie shakes the dandelions out of her hair. They start making out. Sophie straddles Will and starts getting very sexually aggressive, puts her hand under her dress to undo Chad's pants.

WILL
My God girl, you are going to be the
death of me.

INT. DINING ROOM -- EVENING

Sophie sits at the table while Mom pins the hem of the boxing robe Chad wears as he stands on a chair.

MOM
Why?

SOPHIE

What?

MOM

Why do you want to go college?

SOPHIE

Maybe to get an education...to get a better job.

Sophie grabs an apple from the fruit bowl and cleans it on her shirt sleeve.

CHAD

What's wrong with the job that you have now?

MOM

Exactly. Nothing is wrong with it.

SOPHIE

Maybe I want more.

MOM

Right now we need to concentrate on Chad's fight.

SOPHIE

Why?

MOM

Why? Why, he is going to fight that Summers guy that stole that fight from him. Revenge.

SOPHIE

I didn't know that you believed in revenge.

MOM

I don't. This is different.

Sophie bites into her apple. She spits out her bite, the apple is bruised.

CHAD

Is nothing ever good enough for you?

Sophie hands the apple to Chad.

Chad hands the apple back to Sophie.

MOM

School costs money.

SOPHIE
Well, I thought that maybe you would -

CHAD
Here it comes...always asking for
money. Will you ever be able to
take care of yourself?

Sophie throws the apple down on her plate then gets up and
leaves in a huff.

EXT. BOXING GYM -- DAY

Chad opens the door to exit the gym. Will takes quick
advantage and walks into the gym leaving Chad to hold the
door open.

CHAD
What the hell?

Will looks around to try and figure out what Chad is talking
about.

CHAD (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing here?

WILL
If seeing me day in and day out
bothers you...move your ass over to
that other shit hole.

Chad grabs Will by the neck of his shirt. They are still in
the doorway of the gym, now attracting the attention of a
few of the patrons from the restaurant next door, who seem
to find humor in the situation and laugh.

CHAD
This is my gym.

WILL
You don't want to go down this road.

Chad gets his face just inches away from Will's.

CHAD
You have no idea how much restraint
it is taking to keep me from ending
you right here.

Chad's grip slips into a neck hold. The two stare at each
other for a long moment. Chad hesitantly lets go of Will.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Stay the fuck away from my sister.

INT. WILL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Sophie on one side of the bed, her back to Will, who is sitting up in bed.

WILL
You're mad.

SOPHIE
I'm not mad.

Sophie pounds at her pillow and then puts her head back down.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I'm tired.

WILL
You've been flopping around over there for an hour.

SOPHIE
Just go to sleep.

Will shakes his head, turns his back to Sophie and pulls the covers up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Like we don't have to do it every night.

WILL
I never said we did.

SOPHIE
But you expect it.

WILL
What?

SOPHIE
You wanted it tonight.

WILL
I want it every night...but I don't ex-

Sophie hits Will over the head with her pillow.

SOPHIE
See...it's all about sex.

Will puts his arms up in defense.

WILL
What the hell?

SOPHIE
You are with me just because I'm a
great lay.

Sophie puts her pillow back down and lays down, satisfied.

WILL
I can't believe you're saying this!

Sophie sits back up.

SOPHIE
I'm not a great lay?

Sophie pulls the covers over to her side of the bed.

WILL
Yes...Of course you are...

SOPHIE
See.

WILL
See what?

SOPHIE
It's all about the sex.

WILL
Oh....now I get it.

Will pulls his share of the blanket back over to his side of
the bed.

SOPHIE
Get what?

Will lays his head down on the pillow.

WILL
Get what you got your panties in a
wad about.

Sophie looks under the covers.

SOPHIE
No panties here.

WILL
Not interested.

SOPHIE
What?

WILL
I love you, Sophie.

SOPHIE
Bull shit.

WILL
No bull shit, Sophie. I love you, I love the way I feel all okay when I'm with you. I love the way that I can't wait to be with you when ever I'm away. Even though when I am with you more than not you are driving me crazy with your craziness. I love the way that I want to make you happy.

SOPHIE
You want to make me happy?

WILL
Oh, Sophie, I want to make you happy.

Sophie starts kissing Will. Will peaks under the covers.

WILL (CONT'D)
You weren't lying.

Sophie looks up at Will, confused.

CHAD
About no panties.

SOPHIE
I would never lie to you.

Sophie moves on top of Will.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Now make me happy.

WILL
She loves me just because I'm a good lay.

Will reaches over to the nightstand, opens the drawer and pulls out a condom. Sophie grabs it and throws it down.

WILL (CONT'D)
Hey you.

Will picks the condom up. Sophie is still on top, she leans down and kisses Will as he is unwrapping the condom behind her back.

SOPHIE
We don't need it.

WILL
Sophie, we have played roulette enough
with this rhythm system....

SOPHIE
No shit.

WILL
Our luck is gonna run out....

SOPHIE
Will...what if...what if....

Will puts the condom on and kisses Sophie so she can't finish
what she was about to say.

INT. CLINIC -- DAY

Sophie sits in a low income doctor's office. A female DOCTOR
is sitting across from her, behind the desk. There are birth
control and AIDS posters covering the walls.

DOCTOR
Have you told the dad?

SOPHIE
Nope. He doesn't need to know.

DOCTOR
You have options, Sophie.

SOPHIE
No options sitting on this side of
the desk. I'm not at a free clinic
because the service is superior,
right?

Sophie grabs a pack of gum out of her purse, pulls a piece
out and sticks it in her mouth. Starts to put the pack back
in her purse, hesitates and offers the doctor a piece. The
doctor shakes her head no.

DOCTOR
No thanks. Do you want to have this
baby, Sophie?

SOPHIE
I don't want to be a welfare mom.

DOCTOR
Okay, what about adoption?

SOPHIE
How am I supposed to protect a kid
from all the shit out there?

DOCTOR
No one can do that. We all do the
best that we can and then pray.

SOPHIE
Yeah, well my very best isn't very
good.

DOCTOR
I just want you to think this decision
through.

SOPHIE
This decision has been made for me.

DOCTOR
Has it?

SOPHIE
So, when do I come back in...to get
it done, you know?

DOCTOR
We can perform the procedure next
Friday.

SOPHIE
Well okay then, the procedure will
be performed next Friday.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE -- DAY

Sophie and mom are kneeling by the flower bed dead heading
rose bushes.

MOM
Everything okay?

SOPHIE
Oh, sure..... it's just that annual
check up thing.

MOM
I hate those.

SOPHIE
Who doesn't?

MOM
I don't know dear, I'm sure there's
someone out there who doesn't.

SOPHIE
That's a disgusting thought, mom.

They both laugh.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
So, having Chad so young, any regrets?

Mom stops deadheading, sits back and takes a deep look at Sophie.

MOM
Why do you ask?

SOPHIE
We just have never had, you know, we just never talk that much about things, you know, those mother daughter things.

Mom studies Sophie.

MOM
If you have questions about protection, your doctor can explain all that to you, for when you need that sort of thing.

SOPHIE
Mom! That's not what I meant! I just wondered if you ever wondered, you know, what your life would have been like if you hadn't had Chad so young.

MOM
Well, I was much too young.

SOPHIE
So you do regret having Chad.

MOM
Of course not!

Mom starts deadheading again, Sophie stops deadheading and takes a deep look at her mom.

SOPHIE
So, you never thought about, about....

MOM
An abortion? Never. Having you and Chad, that's about the only right thing I've ever done.

SOPHIE

You were probably ready to have kids,
pretty mature and shit.

Sophie pricks herself with a thorn. Mom pulls a tissue out from her bra and wraps it around Sophie's finger. They tenderly look at each other.

MOM

No one is ready to be a mom until
that baby is placed in her arms.

INT. BOXING GYM -- DAY

From behind a bag Sophie watches Will spar, she goes unnoticed. Will trains the sparring partner more than the sparring partner gives him a workout. Some younger fighters hang out to watch Will. They are wide eyed, in awe of Will. Rocky sits on the corner of the ring, outside the rope, and watches the action. The SPARRING PARTNER throws his arms up and spits out his mouth piece.

SPARRING PARTNER

I will never be you, man.

WILL

You don't want to be me.

Will rests his gloved hands on his Sparring Partners shoulders.

SPARRING PARTNER

I do, man, I really do.

WILL

You can be better than me. You just
got to find your style and commit to
it.

SPARRING PARTNER

How do I do that?

WILL

You find your strengths and build on
them. Like your left hook.

Will playfully jabs his sparring partner with his left.

WILL (CONT'D)

Then you find your weaknesses and
build on them even more.

SPARRING PARTNER

That makes no sense man.

WILL
Work like a mother fucker on that
right upper cut and you'll know
exactly what I mean.

Sophie walks over to the ring and picks up Rocky.

SOPHIE
(Whispers to Rocky)
He'll make a great daddy, one day.

Will climbs out of the ring, pets Rocky and kisses Sophie on
the cheek.

WILL
I didn't see you come in.

SOPHIE
I'm sneaky.

WILL
Yeah you are.

INT. CLINIC -- DAY

Sophie sits in the waiting room, flipping through magazines,
not really seeing the pages as she flips through them. A
VERY PREGNANT WOMAN and her THREE YEAR OLD GIRL with a Happy
Birthday paper crown on her head, walk out of the examining
room, through the waiting room.

SOPHIE
Happy Birthday Sweetie.

GIRL
You know what I'm getting for my
birthday? A little brother!

The Nurse walks into the waiting room.

NURSE
Sophie?

SOPHIE
Yes?

NURSE
The doctor is ready.

Sophie puts down her magazine, nervously gets up and walks
towards the Nurse. Sophie turns to the Girl.

SOPHIE
You are going to make a great big
sister.

GIRL
Are you going to have a baby?

SOPHIE
Oh...I.....

NURSE
The doctor is waiting.

The Girl turns to Sophie as her mom is dragging her out the door.

Sophie gets up and walks towards the nurse.

SOPHIE
Umm...I ummm....I need to use the rest room first, is that okay?

NURSE
Certainly dear, it is the first door on the right.

INT. CLINIC BATHROOM -- DAY

Sophie sits on the toilet. Her thong briefs are around her ankles with her jeans. Sophie caresses her stomach. All of a sudden she gets pale, doubles over and then urgently gets up and throws up in the toilet.

Sophie rips off some toilet paper to wipe her face. She blows her nose. She places her hand on her tummy. She gets up, almost falling in her tangle of jeans around her ankles. She pulls her thongs and jeans up, looks in the mirror and straightens up.

INT. CLINIC HALLWAY -- DAY

Sophie sneaks out of the bathroom and back into the waiting room, exits the waiting room, before the door shuts behind her she half steps back into the waiting room. She looks around, and then grabs a brochure on "NINE MONTHS OF A HEALTHY PREGNANCY" and a "PREGNANCY SPA" off of a nearby counter, then she looks around again, grabs the candy dish from the counter and dumps all of the candy into her purse, replaces the now empty bowl on the counter and then darts out of the office.

INT. SPA -- DAY

Cheap want-a-be Fancy Spa. Sophie and Danielle are entertained with the novelty of the spa. A skin & bones SPA ATTENDANT, with a tray of champagne, walks up to them as they get pedicures in side-by-side vibrating massage pedicure chairs, by two matching oriental attendants.

SPA ATTENDANT
Champagne, ladies?

Danielle grabs two glasses and hands one to Sophie. Sophie puts her hand up to decline.

DANIELLE
It's free.

Sophie shakes her head no, relaxes into the chair and closes her eyes. Danielle looks at the extra glass of champagne, downs it, puts it back on the Spa Attendants tray and sits back to enjoy her own glass of champagne.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Since when do you turn down free
booze?

SOPHIE
There are times when you just
shouldn't drink.

DANIELLE
Like when your pregnant, right?
Well your not, so drink up.

SOPHIE
What if I was, pregnants?

DANIELLE
You're not. So drink.

Danielle looks around for the attendant with the booze. Her oriental attendant motions for the champagne lady to return.

SOPHIE
No, Danielle. I'm not drinking.

Sophie plays with the different massage options on the chair. She vibrates to a different rhythm with each selection.

DANIELLE
Why the hell not? It's free!

SOPHIE
I'm....I'm....

DANIELLE
You're???

SOPHIE
I'm just trying to be more healthy.

DANIELLE
Soph....you're a party girl. Don't
forget it, okay?

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

The doctor is performing an ultra-sound on Sophie.

SOPHIE
I couldn't even tell my best friend.

DOCTOR
Scared?

SOPHIE
Me? Not a chance.

DOCTOR
See your baby?

SOPHIE
Why would I be scared?

The doctor points to the ultra sound screen with a pointer.

DOCTOR
There's a foot.

Sophie is looking at the ultra sound screen, she starts to
look confused.

SOPHIE
I can't see it.

DOCTOR
There's the head.

The doctor uses a pointer to point at the screen. Sophie
squints.

SOPHIE
See, I'll make a bad mother, I can't
even find my baby on a ultra sound
thing. How am I supposed to find my
kids when their lost at the zoo if I
can't find 'em on this thing?

The doctor smiles and wipes the ultra sound jelly off of
Sophie's belly.

DOCTOR
Sophie, what do you think the most
important thing is for a mother to
do for her child?

Sophie pulls her shirt down. The doctor pull a chair over and sits by Sophie.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

She loves her child. Being a good mother has nothing to do with being able to read an ultra sound screen. As long as you love your baby with all your heart you can learn how to do the rest.

Sophie starts to tear up.

SOPHIE

I'm scared.

The doctor gently holds Sophie's hand.

DOCTOR

That's normal, Sophie, that's just being a mom. It's the mom that comes in here thinking that she already knows everything about being a parent that scares me.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

No larger than a high school auditorium. Not even half of the bleachers are filled. The crowd is a bit bored. Sophie, her mom, and Danielle sit in the front row.

In the ring Chad sits on a stool in his corner. His corner man, MIKE, is giving him water out of a straw. Larry stands right outside the ring, Rocky peeks out of his sweatshirt.

A SECURITY GUARD comes by.

SECURITY GUARD

No dogs allowed.

Larry pushes his dog inside his sweatshirt.

LARRY

I don't see no dogs.

SECURITY GUARD

Right in there, I saw him.

The security guard points at Larry's sweatshirt.

Larry looks down his sweatshirt.

LARRY

Nope. No dog in here.

SECURITY GUARD
Sir, I saw the dog. I'll have to
ask you to leave if -

Chad turns and looks down at the Security Guard. Then Chad
stands up, looming over the Security Guard.

CHAD
This guy bothering you, boss?

LARRY
He thinks I got a dog in here.

Chad looks directly at the security guard.

CHAD
That ain't no dog in there. Now
leave my boss alone. NOW!

The Security Guard pales and walks off.

CHAD (CONT'D)
You brought that rodent with you?

LARRY
He ain't no rodent.

CHAD
He's more rodent than dog.

Larry pets Rocky.

LARRY
(to Rocky)
Don't listen to him. He don't know
nothing.

In the opposite corner is a fighter of equal size yet not
any where near the same amount of confidence, his corner man
is putting goo on a cut above his eye.

MIKE
You gonna play with this guy and
take it the distance?

CHAD
I'm getting thirsty for a beer.
I'll play with him a bit more, then
put an end to his boxing career.

Mike shoves a mouth guard in Chad's mouth, looks in Larry's
direction and shakes his head.

The BELL RINGS. Chad's opponent comes out bouncing around like an energizer bunny rabbit. Chad saunters out into the center of the ring.

The opponent starts to look confused. Chad isn't throwing any punches. He is taunting his opponent to hit him. The opponent hesitantly throws a right hook towards Chad's jaw. Chad doesn't block it.

The opponent pulls back for a moment of thought. He comes back and throws a combination at Chad. Chad doesn't block at all. However, he does respond to the power of the blows by stepping back a step with a swift inhalation.

The opponent steps back and observes Chad.

The crowd is getting interested. There are a few laughs from the crowd.

Chad absorbs the attack. He steps back and pulls his fists up in a defensive stance. The crowd starts making more noise. The opponent notices the transformation in Chad and becomes cautious, he moves into a more defensive stance.

Chad attacks like a mad man. He gets his opponent on the ropes. The referee separates them. Chad attacks again. The cut above the opponent's eye opens and gushes dark blood. Chad's attack continues. The opponent defends himself the best he can. His nose is crooked and bleeding. The blood is mixing with his sweat.

A FAN stands up.

FAN

The fights over! We know who the winner is!

Chad pulls back. The referee doesn't stop the fight. The opponent uses all his will to not fall down. Chad shadow boxes around him, then knocks him down with a combination.

The referee kneels down by the opponent.

REFEREE

One -- Two--

The opponent lifts his head up.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Three -- Four --

He sits up.

OPPONENT

I'm okay.

REFEREE

You gotta stand up. Five --

He stands up. The referee stands up with him. He hold two fingers up.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

How many fingers you see?

The opponent's eyes can't focus.

OPPONENT

Four.

REFEREE

Close enough. Let's fight.

The fight continues for just a few seconds and the BELL RINGS.

The corner men put the stools down. Chad, barely out of breath, sits down and spits his mouth piece out. Mike picks it up and puts it in a bucket of water.

Chad's opponent collapses on his stool. His corner man wipes the blood off his face.

CHAD

Why don't you go ahead and open that beer. It'll take me less than ten seconds to finish up here.

MIKE

Go easy on him man. A simple knock out will do. You don't need to send this kid to the hospital.

CHAD

He should have known not to get back up.

The BELL RINGS.

Mike shoves Chad's mouth guard in. Chad rises up from his stool. Chad puts his complete focus on his opponent. Chad approaches the center of the ring in a Spartan Soldier manner.

His opponent looks up at his corner man.

OPPONENT

Why didn't I just stay down?

His corner man gently puts his mouth guard in. He weakly gets up from his stool. He enters the center of the ring in a defensive posture.

Chad attacks with non stop punches. Chad clenches his opponent and head butts him. The opponent's eyes roll up. Chad sees this. Chad continues to punch his opponent in his kidneys.

The opponent falls.

EXT. PARKING LOT, AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

The parking lot is empty except for a few clunker cars. A group of young twenty year olds stand around and drink beers. The hatchback to one of the cars is open, inside is a cooler, and a huge sound system that shakes the car with the vibrations from the gangster music.

SKANK GIRL, a well worn hooker looker chick leans against the car smoking a joint. Sophie stands off to the side.

Chad walks out of the auditorium with his gym bag. He is freshly showered. MICHAEL, a not as buff nor as cool looking version of Chad, grabs a bottle of champagne out of the hatchback. Another of Chad's homeboys, CHARLEY, does a combination of fist pound hand shakes with Chad as he walks by.

MICHAEL
Well done, bro-hah.

Michael hands the bottle of champagne over to Chad who drinks out of the bottle and hands it back to Michael who takes a swig.

CHAD
I didn't even break a sweat tonight.

Chad grabs a beer out of the cooler.

An ambulance pulls out from the other side of the auditorium. Everyone watches it pull out in silence. The silence is broken by the sound of Chad opening his beer.

SOPHIE
Don't be so cocky, *bro-hah*, your next fight won't be so easy.

CHARLEY
Your brother will have no problem with Summers. I hear some hottie is keeping him from concentrating on training.

A satisfied grin appears on Sophie's face as she gains a sexier pose, sticking her boobs out just a bit more.

SOPHIE

Really?

Chad punches the car. Sophie smiles.

CHAD

Any word on who this hottie is?

CHARLEY

What difference does it make man?
As long as she fucks and sucks all
his strength out of him?

Chad kicks the car. Sophie quietly snickers. Charley
inspects the damage.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

Man, what is up?

CHAD

Why don't you tell us what's up,
Soph?

SOPHIE

Why don't you lay off!

MICHAEL

This is a celebration! Everybody
must be happy!

Michael pops the cork on another bottle of champagne.
Everyone is quiet. Chad grabs the champagne bottle, takes a
swig and hands it to Sophie. Sophie puts her hand up.

CHAD

What's this? You won't drink to my
win?

SOPHIE

No offense, just not in the mood to
drink.

Chad hands the bottle to SKANK GIRL. She takes a healthy
swig, and then gives Chad a slutty very cheap open mouth
kiss, then runs her tongue outside his lips. Sophie watches
then turns away, almost rolls her eyes. As Skank Girl pulls
away from Chad she looks over at Sophie almost as if she is
looking for approval.

SKANK GIRL

The only time I ever turned down
booze was when I was pregnant.

SOPHIE

You had a baby!?!

SKANK GIRL
A little baby girl.

SOPHIE
Where is she now?

SKANK GIRL
I gave her away.

SOPHIE
Good thing.

SKANK GIRL
Fuck you, Miss high and mighty. I
gave her up because I loved her. I
didn't want to ruin her life, okay?

Skank Girl grabs the champagne bottle and takes a long drink.
She hands the bottle to Sophie, who hands the bottle back to
Michael.

SKANK GIRL (CONT'D)
I think she's being disrespectful.

Sophie looks straight at Chad.

SOPHIE
Tell your hoe to shut the fuck up.

Skank girl comes to attention.

CHAD
If you're not going to party with
us, maybe you should just shove.

Danielle's car drives up.

SOPHIE
I'm off.

As Sophie gets into the passenger seat Danielle gets out of
the driver's side and runs over to Chad.

DANIELLE
Good job, champ.

Danielle moves to kiss Chad on the mouth and he turns his
cheek to her. Skank Girl rolls her eyes.

CHAD
You better go, Sophie's waiting.

DANIELLE
(whispers)
Come over later?

CHAD
(whispers)
Meet me at my place.

Danielle skips towards her car.

CHAD (CONT'D)
A fan, that's all.

SKANK GIRL
She's hot enough, I could do her.

INT. DANIELLE'S CAR -- NIGHT

White interior. Flower decal on the glove box, Hawaiian lei hangs from the rear view window. Three little stuffed dogs sit on the dash board. Danielle slips into the driver seat. Sophie is in the passenger seat, she pushes her seat belt out of the way, she doesn't put it on.

DANIELLE
Chad fought well tonight.

SOPHIE
He sure likes to destroy the weak
and meek.

Sophie sadly looks over at Danielle. Danielle turns some gangster music on.

Danielle pulls up to the curb outside their apartment and leaves the car running.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Just dropping me off?

DANIELLE
I'm going somewhere.

SOPHIE
Why do you let him treat you like
this?

DANIELLE
He just needs time.

SOPHIE
Did you not see that disease infested
creature hanging on him?

DANIELLE
She's just a fan. A groupie. She's
so not his type.

Danielle reaches over and opens Sophie's door.

SOPHIE
In a hurry to be treated like shit?

Danielle taps her finger nails on the steering wheel.

EXT. PARKING LOT, AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Chad's friends get ready to leave. Chad pulls Skank Girl aside and hands her some money.

CHAD
You go buy some more of that good
shit from your friend and then come
over okay?

Skank Girl kisses Chad.

SKANK GIRL
I'm gonna blow your brains out.
I'll play with that skinny bitch
too, if you'll let me.

Skank Girl walks off.

MICHAEL
I like the way you celebrate, bro-
hah.

They pound fists.

INT. DANIELLE'S CAR -- NIGHT

Sophie is half in, half out of the car. Danielle continues to tap her fingers on the steering wheel.

DANIELLE
He's falling in love with me, you'll
see.

SOPHIE
No he's not, and believe me, you
don't want him to.

Sophie gets out and slams the door. Danielle looks in the rear view mirror and fixes her lip stick before she drives off.

INT. CHAD'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Chad rolls over from on top of Danielle, who is face down on the bed. Chad burps.

CHAD
I gotta sleep now.

Danielle spoons up to Chad.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Alone.

DANIELLE

This is nice.

Chad pushes her away.

CHAD

I need my rest.

DANIELLE

Okay then.

Chad looks at the clock on his night stand then leans over the edge of the bed, grabs Danielle's jeans from the floor and tosses them over to her.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I can take a hint.

Chad gives her a 'you are such a dumb blond look.'

EXT. CHAD'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Danielle smokes a cigarette and checks her messages on her cell phone when she sees Skank Girl walk up to Chad's apartment, take a key out of her purse and go inside. Danielle almost drops her phone, her eyes tear up and she gets all shaky.

INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Sophie is asleep in bed. The phone rings. Sophie answers it, still mostly asleep.

SOPHIE

What the hell?

Sophie listens for a few beats and then sits up in bed wide awake.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'm on my way.

EXT. THE BREWERY -- NIGHT

Sophie is trying to get a very drunk Danielle into her beat up red sedan. As soon as she almost has Danielle in the car, Danielle falls out of the car and throws up.

SOPHIE

Oh, shit.

Sophie throws up. Danielle looks up at her.

DANIELLE
You're too drunk to drive.

SOPHIE
I'm so definitely not drunk.

DANIELLE
You're throwing up.

SOPHIE
I'm pregnant.

DANIELLE
You are so drunk. I better drive.

SOPHIE
No way, chica.

Danielle starts laughing.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
What's funny?

DANIELLE
You'd make such a bad mom. Probably
leave the baby in the car while you
went in the bar for some shooters.

SOPHIE
Fuck you, Danielle, Fuck you.

DANIELLE
What the hell?

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Sophie places a ticket to Will's fight on the table then she
grabs a note pad and starts to write a note to Danielle when
Danielle walks in. Danielle picks up the ticket. Danielle
looks pale, mascara around her eyes, she rubs her temples.

SOPHIE
Hung over, again?

DANIELLE
You should have been there.

SOPHIE
Are you going to make it to Will's
fight tonight?

Danielle walks over to the kitchen, opens a cabinet and takes
out a bottle of aspirin.

She takes out four and drinks them down with an opened can of diet coke from the counter. She shrugs. Sophie watches Danielle.

DANIELLE
I'm gonna go see Chad.

SOPHIE
Why?

DANIELLE
Find out what's going on.

SOPHIE
Isn't it obvious?

Danielle stands in front of the open fridge, she pulls food containers around looking for something.

Sophie grabs a jar of peanut butter and a container of sour cream. Danielle turns her attention to Sophie. Sophie gets a bowl from a cabinet and mixes the peanut butter and sour cream together. She grabs a bag of chips from another cabinet, dips a chip in the mix and eats it.

Danielle grabs a chip and tries the concoction.

DANIELLE
Not bad.

SOPHIE
Come to the fight with me.

DANIELLE
I never gave Chad a chance to explain.

SOPHIE
Wow, what happened to a picture being worth a thousand words? You saw Skank Girl using her own key to get in his apartment.

DANIELLE
There could be an explanation.

SOPHIE
And the world could be fucking flat!

EXT. GYM -- DAY

Sophie waits outside the entrance of the gym. A few couples sit at the outdoor tables at the sidewalk tables next door. Sophie looks at them enviously.

Chad pulls up and parks outside the gym. Sophie walks up to his car. Chad opens the car door and hands Sophie his bag. Chad gets out of the car and they walk toward the gym. Chad doesn't take his gym bag back, he lets Sophie carry it.

SOPHIE
I'm not your fucking sherpa, you know?

CHAD
Thought you'd be on your way to the fight.

SOPHIE
I am.

Danielle comes pounding up.

DANIELLE
You son-of-a-bitch!

Sophie and Chad spin around towards Danielle.

SOPHIE
I was gonna warn you.

DANIELLE
You son-of-a-fucking-bitch!

CHAD
What the hell?

DANIELLE
I saw her.

CHAD
Who?

DANIELLE
The bitch that came over the other night after I left.

SOPHIE
Gee, way to ask for an explanation.

The three of them stop in front of the gym. They start to attract some attention from the restaurant patrons.

CHAD
What are you talking about?

DANIELLE
The night after your fight!

CHAD

Oh, right. Now I remember. The other night after you left I heard someone trying to get into my apartment, I thought it was you, that you had forgot something. But when I got to the door it was some lady I have never seen before. She was at the wrong apartment.

Danielle looks back and forth between Sophie and Chad.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Sophie, remember, I told you about that dumb bitch waking me up.

Danielle stares at Sophie. Sophie stares at Chad. Sophie then turns and looks directly at Danielle.

SOPHIE

Didn't you recognize the *intruder*? Don't ya think you have seen her someplace before, maybe?

Chad glares at Sophie.

DANIELLE

I thought so...I thought it was that chick from....

CHAD

It was dark...you couldn't see who it was.

DANIELLE

Right. You're right.

Sophie looks exasperated.

Danielle looks back and forth between Sophie and Chad.

CHAD

Danielle, hey, I gotta get in there. Larry's probably shitting a brick right now, wondering where I'm at.

Chad leans down and gives Danielle a more than adequate kiss.

CHAD (CONT'D)

See you later. Have fun at the monkey fight.

Chad walks into the gym.

DANIELLE

See, I told you there could be an explanation. I got all upset over nothing.

SOPHIE

Has anyone ever told you that you're gullible? You do know what the word means, right?

DANIELLE

Has anyone ever told you that you're a bitch? You know what the word means, right?

SOPHIE

I'll meet you at the fight.

Sophie enters the gym.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Sophie and Chad sit next to the empty ring as Sophie puts Chad's wraps on.

CHAD

Thanks for nothing.

SOPHIE

Does it bother you?

CHAD

Does what bother me?

SOPHIE

That you treat her like shit.

CHAD

She doesn't seem to mind. She feels grateful for whatever little bit of me she can get.

SOPHIE

We think so differently, you know?

CHAD

Yep. Like I think you should stay away from Summers.

SOPHIE

Who I spend my time with is none of your business.

CHAD
You're my sister. That makes it my
business.

Sophie pulls the wrap very tight.

SOPHIE
You don't always know what's best
for me.

Chad pulls his hand away from Sophie, unwraps what she wrapped
and starts over.

CHAD
I know you shouldn't be hanging out
with Summers.

Frustrated, Sophie gets up and heads toward the door.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Tell me that you won't go to his
fight.

Sophie hits a bag on her way towards the door.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Oh come on, you can do better than
that.

Sophie is filled with fury. She tries to hit the bag more
firmly, but she can't get a good hit in with the bag swaying.

Chad LAUGHS.

SOPHIE
Fuck you! Fuck you!

Chad continues to LAUGH.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Will sits in his corner. His corner man rubs his shoulders.
Jackson stands outside the ring and talks on his cell phone.

Will's opponent sits in the opposite corner. His corner man
stands outside the ring.

There are only a handful of people in the audience. Sophie
sits in the front row, next to Danielle. There are a half a
dozen of Will's friends in the row behind her.

The BELL RINGS. Will and his opponent dance out into the
center of the ring. They dance around each other. It becomes
monotonous. The audience is bored.

FAN

Come on, let's have a fight here.

INT. GYM -- NIGHT

Chad warms up on the big bag. His manner is slow and patient. He appears to be deep in thought.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Both boxers are in their corner. Their corner men wipe them down.

The audience looks impatient. The BELL RINGS. Will's corner man puts his mouth piece in and pats his shoulder. Larry stands outside the ring.

JACKSON

Pick it up out there. This isn't just a training fight for you.

Will comes out in attack mode. His opponent is taken off guard. The crowd starts to become engaged.

INT. GYM -- NIGHT

Chad works out on a speed bag. He is fast and works up a sweat. He is more focused.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Will has his opponent in a clench on the ropes right in front of Sophie. Sophie can see the blood on the eyes of the opponent. Sophie's eyes widen. Sophie can hear Will's glove as it hits his opponent's face. She can hear the groans from both of the boxers. She cringes and looks over at Danielle, who also cringes. Sophie looks like she is ready to throw up.

The referee steps up to the fighters and pulls them apart.

REFEREE

Break it up here.

SOPHIE

(to herself)

Thank God.

The fighters dance around, they block each other's punches.

INT. GYM -- NIGHT

Chad shadowboxes in front of a mirror.

He admires himself.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

The referee stands between Will and his opponent in the middle of the ring. He pulls Will's arm up in the air.

REFREE

And the winner is Will Summers!

The crowd claps and lets out some yells of congratulations. Sophie stands up and throws Will a kiss.

DANIELLE

Looks like someone's getting laid tonight

INT. GYM -- NIGHT

Chad is back on the big bag pounding it with all his heart. He drips with sweat and grunts with each punch.

EXT. PARKING LOT, AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Sophie, Will, Danielle, MARCO, a twenty-five year old black man and SEAN, a twenty-three year old white man. Both are dressed more hip-hop than gangster. They stand around Will's car.

Marco starts to shadowbox. Will steps in and pretends to fight with him. Danielle and Sophie mimic them. Sophie pulls back and laughs.

SOPHIE

Okay, it's definitely time to call it a night.

Will throws a pretend hook towards Sophie. She blocks and gets a pretend punch into Will's side.

DANIELLE

(to Sophie)

The cars over here.

Danielle starts to walk to the right.

SOPHIE

Oh, I'm going to Will's.

DANIELLE

Okay....

SOPHIE

What are you going to do?

DANIELLE
I don't know, anyone want to head
over to The Brewery?

Marco looks at Sean.

MARCO
I think we're calling it.

SEAN
I gotta work tomorrow.

SOPHIE
So do we, Danielle, you should just
go home.

DANIELLE
I might, I'm just not tired yet.

Sophie looks at Will.

SOPHIE
Why don't we go to our apartment
instead?

DANIELLE
You guys don't have to do that.

WILL
It doesn't make any difference
Danielle. We'll meet you back home.

INT. WILL'S CAR -- NIGHT

Will drives. Sophie sits in the passenger seat. She puts
her seat belt on. Will notices.

SOPHIE
What? You don't care about safety?

WILL
Oh, I care about safety...you, chica,
you ain't never cared much about
safety.

SOPHIE
Well, maybe I do now.

Will eyes Sophie.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Soooo...

Sophie fidgets with her seat belt.

WILL

Sooooo...

Will smiles at Sophie.

SOPHIE

Sooooo....

Sophie nervously opens the glove box. She sorts through the contents. Registration, parking tickets, a pack of gym, then she pulls out a lone condom. Will reaches over, grabs the condom and puts it back in the glove box, annoyed, he shuts the glove box.

WILL

What's up?

SOPHIE

I'm pregnant.

Will almost runs off the road. Then he stops at a red light.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Yep. Pregnant.

WILL

A baby?

SOPHIE

No, a horse you idiot. Of course a baby. And, of course, before you ask, you are the dad.

Will has a sense of calmness come over him.

WILL

So we'll get married after the fight.

SOPHIE

Married???? How did that come up???

WILL

You're pregnant....that's how that came up.

The light turns green. Will doesn't pull forward.

The car behind him starts honking.

SOPHIE

No.

Will sticks his head out of the window and yells at the car behind them.

WILL
We're having a baby here!

The car pulls around them and the passenger of that car yells out their window.

PASSENGER
If you're having a baby, you should get yourselves to a hospital!

WILL
What the hell?

Will flips the driver in the other car off.

SOPHIE
I knew I shouldn't have told you. I knew you'd go all weird on me.

WILL
We are having a baby, Chica, me and you.

SOPHIE
Actually, no...it is pretty much just me pregnant...you, you are not very pregnant.

The light turns red.

WILL
I'm the dad.

SOPHIE
Yep, but that doesn't mean husband.

WILL
This is bullshit, Sophie.

SOPHIE
How is this bullshit?

WILL
I want to marry you.

The light turns green.

SOPHIE
I'm not getting married because I'm pregnant. This isn't the fifties anymore.

Will stares straight ahead then pulls out into traffic.

WILL
You know I love you.

The traffic gets congested.

SOPHIE
I don't want you to feel trapped.

WILL
Do I look like I feel trapped?

Will looks stressed.

SOPHIE
You do, actually.

They turn off the main street and pull up in front of Sophie's apartment.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I just want to be by myself.

WILL
We should talk.

SOPHIE
We just did.

Sophie gets out of the car and walks towards her apartment. Will gets out of the car and runs after her.

WILL
Sometimes....no....most of the time
you make no sense at all!

SOPHIE
Then why do you want to marry me if
I'm such a stupid fuck?

WILL
I didn't say that.

SOPHIE
Well you pretty much did.

Sophie walks into her apartment and slams the door. Will sits down on the front step to Sophie's apartment. He buries his head down in his hands, in his lap.

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Danielle stands by the fridge when Sophie walks in and slams the door. Sophie leans against the door and starts crying. Danielle grabs a beer from the fridge and walks over to Sophie.

DANIELLE

Whoa, girl. What happened? No way
did the two of you fight.

Sophie nods her head. Danielle wipes some of her tears away
and hugs her.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You were just playing him, right?
You didn't really like him
anyway...remember, it was all a game.

Sophie stares at the ground.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Shit, you started to like him, huh?

Sophie nods her head. Danielle looks at Sophie.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Shit, did you fall in love?

Sophie nods her head.

SOPHIE

But I don't want to marry him.

DANIELLE

That's okay, honey. Just because
you love someone doesn't mean you
have to get married. You can, you
just don't have -

Sophie points to her stomach.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Oh my God! You are pregnant and you
and Will just had a fight because he
wants you to have an abortion and -

Sophie starts to cry harder.

SOPHIE

NO!

DANIELLE

You're not Pregnant! Thank God!

SOPHIE

Yeah, I'm pregnant.

DANIELLE

We better sit down.

They move over to the couch. They sit down next to each other in the middle, where the couch sinks in. Danielle puts her arm around Sophie.

SOPHIE
I don't want an abortion.

DANIELLE
Of course not.

SOPHIE
And I do love Will, and, and, I may want to marry him, but not now when I'm all pregnant and all and I am so fucked up.

DANIELLE
Yes, you are all fucked up and a bit crazy too, and that's why we love you.

SOPHIE
I'm keeping my baby.

DANIELLE
Sophie, you can't.

SOPHIE
You don't understand.

DANIELLE
You're just all emotional right now.

SOPHIE
I'm pregnant!

DANIELLE
Which makes you emotional.

Sophie's face is red and blotchy, she wipes her nose and cries some more.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Sophie, how in the hell can we raise a baby here?

They both look around the apartment. Coke cans, beer cans, dead plants.

SOPHIE
I don't know, I was actually thinking of moving to that house in the burbs!

They both laugh and hug.

EXT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Will still sits on the doorstep. He lifts his head up from his lap and looks up towards a magnificent moon, a small tear appears.

Sophie peaks out of the front window, sees Will and then follows his focus up to the moon. They both stare up at the moon.

Will stands up and does a little happy dance, throws his arms up in the air.

WILL

I'm gonna be a dad. You hear that out there? Will Summer's is gonna be a daddy!

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Sophie walks around the park, she watches a dad help a mom who has her hands full.

EXT. ICE CREAM STORE -- DAY

Sophie watches a man help a woman at the counter as she manages her young kids and her ice cream, paying with her free hand.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Sophie walks down a street and sees a boy run out into traffic. Sophie gasps. The mom screams as a car comes to a screeching halt. She grabs her son and carries him back to safety. The mom is angry and upset with the boy, who acts like nothing happened. Sophie catches her breath.

EXT. WILL'S NEW GYM -- NIGHT

Sophie waits outside the gym. Squishes some old cigarette butts on the sidewalk. She looks over at the tables at the restaurant next door. She starts to walk towards them, then hesitates. Then, without anymore hesitation she walks over and sits at the table closest to the gym.

Will walks out of the gym. Doesn't see Sophie.

SOPHIE

Okay, I'll marry you.

Will turns around, looks for Sophie.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'll marry you.

Will is caught off guard when he finds Sophie.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I said I'll marry you.

Will walks over and sits down next to her.

WILL
Why'd you change you're mind?

SOPHIE
I can't do this on my own.

A gay WAITER delivers water to their table.

WAITER
Menus?

Will keeps his focus on Sophie.

WILL
No, thank you.

Sophie looks up at the Waiter.

SOPHIE
Yes, please.

Sophie looks at Will.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I'm hungry. I'm always hungry these days.

WILL
And, you were saying?

Sophie looks confused.

SOPHIE
That I'm hungry?

WILL
Before that, Sophie...

SOPHIE
And, right, that...I can't do this on my own, this baby deserves a dad.

The waiter delivers the menus.

Sophie mouths "thank you" to the waiter.

WILL
So you want to...?

Sophie is engrossed in the menu, the conversation with Will is now secondary.

SOPHIE
Get married.

WILL
Because?

Sophie looks up in frustration.

SOPHIE
As I said, because this baby deserves
a dad. Isn't this menu amazing?
Are you ready to order?

WILL
No.

Will picks up a menu and pretends to study it, when he is too upset to read it.

SOPHIE
Okay...let me know when you are ready.

WILL
No, Sophie, I'm not going to marry
you *just* so our baby will have a
dad.

Will puts his menu down, gets up without looking at Sophie and just walks away.

Sophie starts to cry.

The waiter appears with his order pad.

WAITER
Ready to order?

The waiter looks over at Sophie.

WAITER (CONT'D)
Maybe not.

The waiter walks away. Sophie grabs her purse, digs in it for something. The waiter reappears and hands Sophie a handful of tissues. Sophie looks up at the waiter.

SOPHIE
Thank you.

WAITER
He loves you, I know boys, and that
boy loves you.

The waiter walks away. Sophie stands up and looks in the direction that Will walked off.

SOPHIE
And I love you.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE -- DAY

Sophie, Chad and their mom sit around the kitchen table. The dinner table hasn't been cleared yet.

MOM
How did you let this happen? I thought you knew about protection.

SOPHIE
MOM!!!

CHAD
How can you be so stupid?

SOPHIE
Fuck you!

MOM
Sophie, enough.

CHAD
You can't be serious about keeping it.

SOPHIE
I'm very serious.

CHAD
You go out spending your money drinking and buying shoes and then when it comes time to pay the rent you come begging me to help you out. Does that sound like you're ready to raise a baby?

MOM
He's completely right, you know, Sophie. You are just not ready.

SOPHIE
So much for family.

CHAD
We're just telling you the way it is.

Mom walks out of the kitchen. Chad grabs an apple from the fruit bowl and takes a huge bite out of it.

CHAD (CONT'D)
(with his mouth full)
I'll fucking kill him.

SOPHIE
Who? What are you talking about.

Chad spits while he is talking.

CHAD
You know damn well who I'm talking
about. He gets you pregnant and
then he won't marry you. He's a
dead man.

SOPHIE
Chad, that's not the way it is.

CHAD
I don't want to hear no more.

Sophie wipes some spit off her face.

INT. WILLS APARTMENT -- DAY

Will opens his front door and Chad is there. Before Will
has a chance to say anything Chad has landed a blow to Will's
jaw. Will has no idea what is up.

WILL
What the fuck?

CHAD
I should finish you off right now.

Chad pushes Will into the apartment and slams the door shut
behind him. Will puts his arms up in surrender.

WILL
Save it for the ring.

CHAD
Don't have the decency to marry her?

Chad pins Will against the wall.

WILL
You're one to talk about decency.

CHAD
You'll get her knocked up but you
won't marry her.

Will pushes Chad away.

WILL
Is that what she told you?

Will holds his hands up and walks to the other side of the living room. The coffee table is between the two.

WILL (CONT'D)
She turned me down man. I want to marry her.

CHAD
She turned you down?

WILL
First off...and then she...she said she wants to get married.

CHAD
And?

WILL
I want her to want to marry me because she loves me...

Will looks at Chad and thinks for a second.

WILL (CONT'D)
You won't understand any of this, man.

Chad picks up the coffee table and throws it to the side. He goes after Will. Will puts his arms up in a sign of surrender, again.

CHAD
Not even man enough to fight me?

WILL
Not here.

Chad moves closer to Will.

CHAD
Why wait?

WILL
You want your fans to witness every punch...Fighting isn't much fun for you when no ones watching, is it? You need your fans all around you telling you how wonderful you are, that you are so fucking great.

CHAD

I'll kill you man, I promise you
that.

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Sophie knits with a "Learn To Knit Book" open in front of her. She has a ball of neon pink, neon yellow and neon blue yarn in front of her. Danielle sits next to her. On the coffee table is a beer in front of Danielle and a healthy juice drink in front of Sophie. There is a reality show on the TV.

Sophie lifts up what she has knitted to show Danielle. It is pitiful.

DANIELLE

Look at you, Martha Stewart!

They laugh. Danielle looks out the front window. Will is parked in front of the apartment. He sits in the front seat.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Isn't it about time that you two
make up and live happily ever after?

Sophie follows Danielle focus and looks outside, she see's Will.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Go.

SOPHIE

No. He has his fight to concentrate
on.

DANIELLE

My bet is that he isn't thinking
much about his fight right now.

SOPHIE

It's tonight. His fight is all he
should be thinking about.

Sophie turns her attention back to her knitting.

INT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

The stands are full except for two seats with reserved signs on them in the front row, and a seat right behind them with a jacket saving it.

The crowd makes lots of noise.

The ring is empty.

Sophie, Danielle and Mom walk in together. They look down the row and Michael motions to Danielle to sit down next to him. Danielle scoots through the crowd to her seat. Sophie and her mom quietly walk over to their seats.

Skank Girl is a few rows back. Danielle looks back at her. Skank Girl winks at Danielle. Danielle gives her the finger.

MICHAEL
Down dog...let's keep the fighting
in the ring.

Sophie looks over her shoulder to Danielle.

SOPHIE
Ignore her.

DANIELLE
I wish she would ignore me!

They laugh.

SOPHIE
She likes you.

Danielle mouths "Fuck you" to Sophie. Sophie turns back around.

MOM
What was that about?

SOPHIE
Nothing mom, nothing at all.

The attention goes to the side of the gym. Will walks in with Jackson and his corner man at his side. Will has a white satin robe with Blue trim. The crowd stands up and cheers for Will. Will climbs in the ring and dances around in his corner.

The crowd noise increases. Chad enters the gym with Larry and his corner man, Mike. Chad wears a black satin robe with red trim. Chad climbs in the ring and puts on a brief show for the audience.

AUDIENCE

Sophie and her Mom look straight ahead, afraid of eye contact.

RING

Will sits down on his stool. We can't hear what Jackson is telling him due to the crowd noise.

AUDIENCE

Sophie looks at Will.

MOM
Do you love him?

SOPHIE
Yes, I do.

MOM
You are sure?

SOPHIE
It is the only thing that I am sure
of.

Sophie and her mom still refuse to look at each other.
Sophie's mom reaches out and takes a gentle hold of Sophie's
hand.

RING

Will's corner man takes off Will's robe, Will looks over at
Sophie, as a loving smile crosses over her face. He smiles.

JACKSON
The fight man. Focus on the fight.
You have a lifetime ahead of you to
think about her. Tonight get her
out of your mind. You need 100% of
yourself right in this ring....right
on that ugly bastard right over there.
Look at him.

Will is staring down.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Look at him - NOW!

Will looks over at Chad.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
I want to see nothing but pure
unbridled hatred in your
eyes...starting now, man.

Will is able to bring up sternness but not hatred.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Think about him fucking your mother
up her ass! Hell, he'd fuck his own
sister.

Will looks at Jackson with disgust and hate.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Don't look at me --- look at him.

Jackson looks over at Chad.

Mike takes off Chad's robe. Chad stands up and half bows for the crowd. Larry pushes him back down on his stool.

LARRY
Don't be such a cocky shit. This is a real fight tonight and you are just as likely to lose as you are to win.

CHAD
He's too distracted to put up any sort of fight.

Chad and Larry look across to Will. Will stares at Chad with that unbridled hatred.

WILL
I am ready.

Jackson pushes Will's mouth guard in his mouth.

Larry pushes Chad's mouth guard in his mouth.

AUDIENCE

Mom and Sophie enjoy each other's presence, still without eye contact.

SOPHIE
So you're not mad anymore?

MOM
I'm furious.

They look at each other.

MOM (CONT'D)
But I love you.

RING

Will stands up.

Chad stands up.

AUDIENCE

Mom makes the sign of the cross with her free hand. She grasps Sophie's hand more firmly, and Sophie squeezes back. Sophie makes the sign of the cross with her free hand.

The crowd is getting anxious.

RING

Chad and Will are in the middle of the ring. The referee brings one glove from each of them together.

REFEREE

Let's have a good fight.

AUDIENCE

Sophie looks nervous. Legs crossed.

SOPHIE

Oh, lord.

MOM

It will be okay, dear.

SOPHIE

No, I have to pee.

Mom looks around.

MOM

Can you hold it?

SOPHIE

Maybe one round.

MOM

Okay, that's a start.

RING

Chad and Will dance around each other. Both of them try to get punches in, but nothing overly exciting. The BELL RINGS.

AUDIENCE

Sophie starts to get up.

SOPHIE

At this rate, nothing of significance will happen until at least round five, so I might as well go now.

MOM

Do you want me to go with you?

SOPHIE

I've been peeing by myself for sometime now, mom, I should be okay.

They giggle. Sophie walks out of the auditorium. The BELL RINGS.

RING

Chad attacks. He gets a series of combinations in, Will tries to block, unsuccessfully. His timing is off.

BATHROOM

Sophie takes her time on the toilet. She reads some graffiti on the bathroom stall.

RING

Chad gets a brutal blow in, Will stumbles.

BATHROOM

Sophie slowly washes her hands while she examines her pregnant tummy in the mirror.

RING

Will blocks Chad's next swings.

AUDIENCE

Mom looks around to see if Sophie is back in the auditorium.

BATHROOM

Sophie dries her hands in a very content manner.

RING

Chad gets a direct hit to the side of Will's head, Will starts to lose his balance, catches himself, only to leave himself open to another hook from Chad. There is blood on his face. Will is vulnerable to a knock out.

AUDIENCE

Sophie enters. She looks down at the ring from the top of the bleachers. She sees Will. She looks as if someone knocked the wind out of her. She watches the fight as she walks down towards her seat.

RING

The two dance until the BELL RINGS.

AUDIENCE

Sophie sits down next to her mom.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I didn't think I was gone that long.

MOM
It's not as bad as it looks.

BELL RINGS.

RING

Will comes out cautious, blocking Chad's attacks. Out of nowhere Will gets in a wicked combination knocking Chad down.

AUDIENCE

Sophie stands up and claps and whistles. She sits down and looks over at her mom. Her mom is pale.

SOPHIE
Sorry.

Sophie gently holds her mom's hand. Her mom pulls her hand back.

RING

The referee kneels by Chad. Chad gets himself up. The fight resumes. Chad gets Will in a clinch.

CHAD
(Through his mouth
piece)
I hope you enjoyed that 'cause now
you die.

Will breaks the clinch.

WILL
(Through his mouth
piece)
I've got a ring for her, so no matter
what happens here, I win.

CHAD
(Through his mouthpiece)
My sister will not marry you.

They dance around, neither one really tries to get a punch in.

WILL
Oh, I think she will do just that.

CHAD
I think not.

From his gut Chad pulls out an upper cut that almost separates Will's head from the rest of his body. Will is down.

AUDIENCE

Sophie gasps. Her mom grabs her hand in comfort and Sophie pulls it back to cover her mouth in fear. The crowd is silent.

RING

Will doesn't move. The referee kneels down.

REFEREE

One.....Two.....Three....

The crowd starts chanting.

CROWD

Summers....Summers.....

REFEREE

Four...Five....

Will starts to move. The crowd starts to cheer. Will sits up.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Six....Seven.....

Will gets up on his knees.

AUDIENCE

Sophie sits silently, she doesn't breath. Her mom places her hand on her shoulder in comfort. Sophie starts to pull away and then gives into the comfort.

RING

Will gets up on one leg.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Eight.....

Will gets completely up, the crowd stands up and roars.

AUDIENCE

The crowd stands except for Sophie and her mother in the front row. They are too weak in the knees to stand. They are pale.

RING

The fighting resumes. Both fighters are tired. BELL RINGS.

EXT. MOLDY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

A deserted parking lot, random crushed beer cans and litter blow around in the light wind. Fight posters are plastered on the building.

Will pulls up in his car. He parks haphazardly, slowly gets out and looks around.

Chad appears out of the shadows.

Freshly showered, they both wear the scars from their fight. Their faces are bandaged. They are still in physical pain from the fight.

Will leans back on his car and watches Chad.

Chad stands about three yards away from Will, he stares at Will. Silence. Will crosses his arms.

Chad pulls out a knife. Will's focus is on the knife. Will smiles and then looks up at Chad.

Sophie's car pulls up in the background. Chad and Will do not appear to notice it. Sophie steps out of the car. She can only see Chad and Will, not the knife.

Sophie can see the smile on Will's face. She smiles to herself.

Sophie sees Will double over. Confusion overtakes Sophie as she runs over to Will. Sophie kneels by Will, who is unconscious. A few drops of blood drip from Will's nose. Sophie pulls her cell phone out of her pocket and dials 911.

SOPHIE

(into her cell phone)

Someone has been...been stabbed...The
City Auditorium...we need an
ambulance right
away....hurry....please hurry.

Sophie takes Will into her arms then looks up at Chad. Chad runs his fingers through his hair as he looks from Sophie to Will. Sophie looks shocked. Will bleeds onto Sophie. Chad looks scared.

Will spasms.

Sophie CRIES out in fear. Sophie holds Will closer, there is blood on her hands from his wounds, Sophie takes her hand and runs it through her hair, the blood stains her face and hair.

SIRENS from a fire truck. Sophie looks up at Chad. Anger begins to replace Sophie's shock. Chad begins to tremble. Sophie's tears run into blood on her face.

Will spasms again and blood begins to flow from the corner of his mouth. Sophie begins to panic.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Hold on Will....they are almost
here....you have to hold on...I love
you...oh, I love you Will Summers.

Sophie kisses Will, despite the blood.

There are more SIRENS that are closer.

CHAD
I don't know...what...

Sophie caresses Will's face as she continues to cradle him. She rocks him gently, the way a mother rocks her baby.

A fire truck turns into the parking lot, followed by an ambulance.

Chad kneels down by Sophie, his head just inches from Sophie's and Will's.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I just didn't want you to end up
with him.

SOPHIE
ROT IN HELL! MAY YOU ROT IN HELL!

Chad hears the sirens and runs off.

INT. THE BREWERY -- NIGHT

Chad sits at the bar with a shot glass and a half full bottle of whisky in front of him. Danielle walks into the bar, sees Chad and walks up to him from behind.

DANIELLE
Hey, champ. I've been looking for
the party.

No response from Chad. Danielle sits down next to him.

Chad pours a shot of whiskey into the shot glass and slides it over to Danielle.

Danielle drinks her shot. Has to put some effort into not throwing up.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Well, for someone who just won a
very important fight you're not
looking all that happy.

Chad pours another shot and drinks it himself.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Okay then. Can't we celebrate just
a bit?

Chad pours another shot of whiskey for Danielle.

CHAD
Sure we can.

The bartender notices Danielle's hesitancy with another shot.

BARTENDER
Hey, how about something that goes
down a bit easier?

CHAD
She's good with this.

The bartender looks at Danielle, waiting for her to answer. She drinks down the shot, she tries to make it look like it went down smoothly. The bartender pours a glass of water for her. She takes a drink of the water and Chad laughs.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Let's go celebrate.

INT. CHAD'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Chad and Danielle are in bed. Chad is on top of Danielle. He kisses her roughly as he grabs one of her nipples and twists it.

DANIELLE
Hey, that hurts.

CHAD
A little pain is good for you.

Chad grabs her hair.

DANIELLE
Chad!

Chad throws her onto her stomach.

CHAD
You're a big girl, you can deal.

Chad enters her from behind and slaps her bum. Danielle CRIES out.

DANIELLE
No Chad, not like that. No.

Danielle starts crying.

CHAD
You like that.

DANIELLE
No I don't. Chad please stop.

He hits her bum harder, and grabs her hair and yanks her head back.

EXT. CHAD'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Danielle hobbles out in pain, her blouse not buttoned correctly. There is a bruise on her temple. She sits down on the curb, pain shoots through her, she cries.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Will lies unconscious in the middle of an intensive care room. There are only the beeps of hospital equipment.

Sophie sits beside him, she holds his hand. After a few minutes, Sophie becomes restless and stands up. She picks up a flower from one of the arrangements in the room and walks over to the window. She picks one of the petals,

SOPHIE
He loves me.

Sophie picks another petal.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
He loves me not.

Sophie starts to pick another petal when Chad walks in. Sophie doesn't look up, she does feel his presence.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Get out.

Chad stops halfway between where Sophie sits and the door. He looks at Will.

CHAD
Is he gonna make it?

Sophie walks back to Will's side, she grabs a towel and wipes his forehead.

A police officer enters the room. Chad looks back and forth between Sophie and the Officer. Sophie looks up at the officer.

SOPHIE
I already told the other officer
everything that I know.

Chad breaks out in a slight sweat and stuffs his hands in his pocket.

OFFICER
The victim's car is at the police
station, you can pick it up anytime.
And, I just wanted to check in to
see if you remembered anything else.

Sophie turns her attention to Chad.

SOPHIE
No, but as I told the other officer.
I will let you know if I have anything
else to tell you.

Sophie looks up at Will.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE -- DAY

Sophie and her mom sit at the kitchen table, they pick at their dinner.

MOM
They have no clues?

SOPHIE
No clues, no suspects, nothing Mom,
how many times do I have to tell you
this?

The front door opens. Sophie and her mom look up. Mom gets up and walks to the door.

CHAD (O.S.)
Hi, Mom.

Sophie tenses. She picks her plate up, walks over and puts it on the sink counter. She turns around. Mom is pulling out a chair for Chad.

MOM
Sophie, make Chad a plate.

SOPHIE
I gotta go, Mom.

Mom looks at Sophie, surprised.

MOM

What? You don't have to go.

Chad sits down and stares at random objects, he does not make eye contact with Sophie.

SOPHIE

I should get back to the hospital.

Sophie grabs her purse from the chair and walks towards the door.

MOM

No clues, Chad, can you believe that?

CHAD

Happens all the time, mom. What's so hard to believe?

Sophie glares at Chad.

SOPHIE

See ya later Mom.

MOM

You don't have to go yet, I still have pie.

Sophie walks out.

Mom brings out a plate of meat loaf and a slice of pie for Chad.

MOM (CONT'D)

We gotta get you strong for your fight.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Sophie walks through a parking lot. She sees Will's car. She has keys in her hand. She unlocks the door, and stands there for a moment. She tries to get in the front seat, but doesn't fit. She adjusts the seat and pulls herself into the car.

She touches the dashboard, almost caresses it as if the car were Will. She breaths in, there is Will's scent. Sophie cocoons into the front seat. She touches the passenger seat and then her hand drifts over to the glove box. She smiles and opens the glove box. She pulls out the condom.

She sees something, she pulls a small jewelry box out. She holds it. Finally she opens it. It is an engagement ring.

Sophie stares at it. She then takes it out of the box and very tenderly, with shaky hands, puts it on. She admires the ring. The diamond is so very small, and Sophie loves it so very much. She smiles.

SOPHIE

Sophie Summers. I like it. Sophie Summers.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Chad, in his work out gear, gloves on, oiled up looking strong, is surrounded by a few reporters and camera men.

CHAD

We may have been opponents in the ring...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie sits beside an unconscious Will. She watches TV as she holds his hand.

SOPHIE

Did I tell you I quit my job? I did. I quit my job. Don't freak out here, I moved home. With my mom. You see, this way, I can concentrate on school. Yep. I didn't tell you that either, did I? It's been a busy week. I am what you may call...I'm maturing. I have to step things up a bit for our baby. Oh, I went and picked up your car from the police station, before they sold it in some auction or something. And, well, you know me...I was looking for something in the glove box for something I guess and I found that ring. I assume it is for me. So, I'm wearing it now 'cause I really like it. And, because, because I really love you and that's why I want to marry you, I love you and I want to marry you. Got it?

Sophie looks at Will for a response. Nothing.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Okay, enough mush for now.

She flips through channels and stops when she sees Chad's report.

ON THE TV SCREEN:

CHAD
...but we were friends outside the
ring. I will win my coming fight in
Will Summer's honor...

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Danielle sits on the couch in front of the TV.

ON THE TV SCREEN:

CHAD
...Will's spirit will be with me in
the ring and he will help me win the
fight.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie turns the TV off. Her hand shakes as she holds the
remote, she stares at the blank TV screen.

A NURSE walks in. She checks Will's IV's.

NURSE
Did you just see your brother on TV?

SOPHIE
No, no I didn't.

NURSE
You got a fine brother there.

Sophie watches the nurse as she walks out.

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Danielle sits stunned in front of the TV.

DANIELLE
(to herself)
What a fucking ass.

Her cell phone rings. She reaches over to her purse, looks
to see who the call is from and answers it.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I'm fired.

Danielle listens to the caller while she flips channels on
the TV.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
I promise, Mike, I won't miss anymore
work. Life just beat me up a bit.

Danielle feels the bruise on her temple and listens more attentively to the caller.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Wow, thanks for caring....I mean
that....it really means a lot...I'll
see you tomorrow.

Danielle hangs up with a smile.

INT. GYM -- DAY

The reporters and camera people put away their gear. Larry walks up to Chad.

LARRY
How's Sophie?

CHAD
She's ok.

LARRY
Really?

CHAD
Really.

The reporters and camera people walk out.

LARRY
They're gone, so now tell me what
happened that night.

CHAD
I don't know what you're talking
about.

LARRY
I ain't no stupid shit.

Chad grabs a jump rope and starts to skip.

CHAD
I know nothing. And unless Summers
wakes up ain't nobody gonna know
what happened.

LARRY
Well, the way I see it, at least one
other person knows what happened
that night.

Chad goes from a casual skip pace to a rapid jump pace.

LARRY (CONT'D)

And that....

Larry reaches out and grabs the rope.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Person is the person that did the
stabbing.

Chad doesn't respond.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Now, what I wonder, is how in the
hell can that person live with
himself? Can you answer that one
for me?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Chad looks out the window of the hospital room. Will lies
in a coma, tubes and machines hooked up to him.

CHAD

I didn't mean it to be this way man.
I just was crazy mad. I want someone
better than a boxer for my sister.
You can't blame me there man.

Chad starts to pace back and forth. Chad doesn't look at
Will. Will's eyes start to open. Will looks down at his
hands and slowly wiggles his fingers. Will shifts his focus
to Chad. Chad doesn't know Will has gained some
consciousness.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You were just fucking her to get to
me. That wasn't right. First, you
beat me in the ring. Then you took
my sister from me. Then I came back
man. I took my revenge. I took
your title from you and took my sister
back. Anyway man, Sophie was just
playing you. Danielle told me
everything, how Sophie just wanted
to piss me off so she went out with
you. She never loved you. Why she
is keeping this bastard baby is beyond
me.

Will's eye's flutter shut.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Anyway, without you, now Sophie can
have a better life.

INT. COLLEGE -- DAY

Sophie sits at a college desk and copies math notes from the blackboard. A MALE STUDENT sitting next to her stares at her and smiles. The male TEACHER turns from the blackboard and faces the class.

TEACHER

And that's that. Finish the assignment for next week, and you'll be well on your way to an A.

The teacher picks up his notes, sticks them in his brief case and walks out of the class room.

Sophie stands up and the Male Student is unpleasantly surprised to see Sophie's pregnant belly.

MALE STUDENT

Shit.

SOPHIE

I know, I'll never get an A in this class. I'll be lucky to pass.

MALE STUDENT

Should you even be here?

He stares at Sophie's belly.

SOPHIE

Probably not, but what the hell, right?

Sophie walks out of the classroom.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie walks into Will's hospital room and it is empty and clean, very starched sheets. There is no evidence that Will was ever in this room. Sophie can't breath. She sits on the bed in shock. She slowly starts to breath. Sophie stands up.

Sophie walks over to the window and looks out on the view that she looked out of on each of her previous visits. On the windowsill is a petal from the flower that Sophie had pulled apart playing he loves me, he loves me not. Sophie picks up the petal. Tears start to flow.

SOPHIE

He loves me.

Sophie sobs.

EXT. HOSPITAL -- DAY

A small park area outside of the hospital.

Sophie sits on a bench under a tree. She is numb and breathes irregularly.

Behind her, Chad walks towards the hospital entrance. He sees Sophie on the bench, pauses, then slowly walks over to her. Sophie becomes aware of his presence and looks up at him. Her eyes are empty. Her face is blotchy. Sophie refuses to say anything.

CHAD
My fight's tonight.

Chad is having difficulty finding the right words. Chad stares at the ground.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I can't fight Sophie. I can't fight
without your forgiveness. I know
this is a lot to ask.

Chad looks up at Sophie. A few lonely tears slip out of Sophie's eyes. Realization shows on Chad's face.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Holy shit.

Chad sits down next to Sophie. She looks deep into Chad's eyes as if she is searching for an answer or an explanation. Chad takes a deep breath.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Sophie...it'll be okay.

Sophie places her hands on her pregnant tummy. Chad's eyes follow her hands and stare at her tummy. A long pause. Chad gets up and shuffles around on his feet. Sophie still looks straight at him. Chad can no longer look at Sophie.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I gotta go. I can't be here right
now.

Sophie slowly stands up, steps towards Chad, she slaps Chad. He doesn't respond. She slaps him harder. He still doesn't respond. Sophie starts to attack Chad.

SOPHIE
You should be dead, not Will! You
don't deserve to be alive. You are
a monster...a sick perverted monster.

Sophie chokes on her tears, almost collapsing, yet still pounds on his chest.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
How can you be my brother?

Sophie loses her balance and takes hold of Chad's elbow to catch herself. Chad looks straight ahead, trying not to look at her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Chad, You killed him. You killed my baby's father. What are you going to do about this?

Chad takes a deep breath.

Sophie lets go of Chad's arm, looks at the ground and walks away. Chad walks away in the opposite direction. After a few steps, Sophie grabs her stomach and doubles over. Sophie gasps. Chad looks over and sees Sophie. He rushes over to her.

CHAD
I got you.

Chad holds Sophie up. Sophie tries to pull away but has another contraction.

SOPHIE
Get away.

CHAD
You need me right now.

SOPHIE
Like fucking hell I need you.

CHAD
You'll lose your baby if you don't let me help you.

Sophie cries out in pain as she has another contraction. Chad picks her up and starts walking towards the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie rests in a hospital bed. She is connected to an IV and other monitors. Her doctor is at her bedside. Her mom is in the background.

DOCTOR
Considering the stress you've been under, this not out of the ordinary.

SOPHIE

My baby?

DOCTOR

The baby did suffer some fetal distress. The extent, we don't know at this time. What is important now is that you rest. We want to keep your baby inside of you for at least two more weeks.

SOPHIE

Rest? I feel so helpless.

The Doctor reaches out and gently holds Sophie hand.

DOCTOR

You are doing great, just rest now.

The doctor closes the curtain around Sophie's bed and turns out the lights as she leaves. The doctor looks over to Sophie's Mom.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

We gave her something to help her sleep. She is already drowsy.

MOM

Thank you for everything.

Sophie's Mom tiptoes over to Sophie and kisses her on the forehead.

MOM (CONT'D)

Sleep tight, dear.

SOPHIE

I love you mom.

MOM

I'll be back tomorrow.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie sleeps soundly in the hospital bed. The lights are out. It is almost dark inside the hospital room. Outside the curtains, late afternoon sunlight starts to seep into the room.

The curtain around her bed opens. A shred of light shines across Sophie. Chad steps next to her. He has a vase of flowers that he sets down on the nightstand.

CHAD

Sophie?

Sophie continues to sleep. Chad pulls a chair over and sits down. He moves some hair off of Sophie's face. She starts to stir.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Sophie....

Sophie's eyes open, she focuses on Chad and then completely wakes with a start. Her breathing slows down as she takes in Chad's presence.

SOPHIE

You shouldn't be here.

CHAD

I need your forgiveness before I can fight.

SOPHIE

I can't forgive you.

CHAD

My fight is tonight.

Sophie is silent. She rolls away from Chad and closes her eyes.

CHAD (CONT'D)

What do I have to do?

Sophie opens her eyes and stares down at her tummy, her face tightens.

SOPHIE

There isn't anything that you can do.

Chad stands up, shuffles around uncomfortably, walks over to the other side of the bed and stares down at Sophie.

CHAD

So there you are all high and mighty. You think I'm the only responsible one here? You think again little girl. You pushed me and pushed me. You knew damn well that there is no other man that I hated like Will. You have known from the get go that I lived and breathed wanting to beat that man to a pulp. So you go and start fucking him. Just to get back at me, right? What did I ever do to you to justify your little childish game of revenge?

(MORE)

CHAD (CONT'D)

You didn't care about him. Danielle told me the whole story. It was all a game to piss me off. It worked. It worked better than you ever thought it would.

Sophie cries. She lets the tears fall down her face.

SOPHIE

Get out!

CHAD

You put me into a rage that I couldn't contain. But, *CHICA*, what happened? Did you get pregnant and then force yourself to fall in love with him? Or did you truly fall in love with that dirt bag? It just didn't play out the way you wanted it to, did it now?

Sophie's face is blotchy, contorting as a contraction hits her hard. The monitors start going off.

SOPHIE

Get out, now!

CHAD

Feeling blameless. The victim. And I'm the bad guy. You set everything into motion and couldn't stop it when things got out of control.

Sophie sees the flower vase. She grabs it and throws it at Chad.

SOPHIE

Get out of here you mother fucker!

Chad ignores the broken glass.

CHAD

I am sorry Sophie. I couldn't help myself, and that is something that you will never understand.

Sophie grabs Chad's wrist and looks directly at Chad.

SOPHIE

I do understand, Chad. I know -

CHAD

You know what?

SOPHIE

What Dad -

Chad pulls away.

CHAD

You don't know shit.

SOPHIE

I know everything. But that doesn't change the reality that my baby doesn't have a daddy. I understand, but I still can't forgive you.

Chad moves close to Sophie.

CHAD

I'll confess. I'll turn myself in.

SOPHIE

That won't bring Will back. You were punished long before you did anything wrong.

CHAD

So, you will forgive me?

SOPHIE

No, Chad.

A nurse enters, she sees the broken glass.

NURSE

What the hell?

She pushes Chad aside, ignoring the fresh cuts on his face from the vase. The nurse leans over the bed and checks Sophie. The nurse rushes over to the phone on the wall.

NURSE (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

Call the doctor ASAP, we need to prep for a stat C-section.

INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR -- DAY

Sophie is on a gurney. A male TECHNICIAN, in scrubs, is with her.

TECHNICIAN

You are stable now...this is good. Before you know it you will have a healthy baby in your arms.

SOPHIE
But it's too soon.

TECHNICIAN
That baby of yours will do just fine.
You need to have some faith, sweetie.
It just takes some faith.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -- NIGHT

Larry wraps Chad's hands in silence.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

The operating technician prepares Sophie for a c-section. He puts her hair in a surgical bonnet and takes off her earrings. He starts to take off her ring.

SOPHIE
No, please. Let me keep it on.

TECHNICIAN
I'm sorry dear, it is procedure. I
have to remove all jewelry.

SOPHIE
It's my strength.

The technician pauses, looks around and then puts tape around the ring.

An ANESTHESIOLOGIST walks in and pulls a stool up next to Sophie.

ANTHESIOLOGIST
I'm going to start the epidural for
the c-section. You'll feel some
pressure and that's all. Any
questions?

Sophie shakes her head. The technician rolls Sophie on her side, her back towards the anesthesiologist. Then the technician holds a tray out for the doctor. The doctor grabs a wipe, pulls the blanket up. The doctor holds up a 7-inch needle and shoots a few drops of medication out of it. Sophie looks over her back and sees this. She turns very pale. The technician reaches out and holds her hand.

TECHNICIAN
Just pressure, dear. It'll be over
before you know it.

SOPHIE
I can't do this.

TECHNICIAN
Faith in yourself. Being a mom
unleashes an amazing amount strength.
You will amaze yourself with what
you can do now.

The technician looks up at the anesthesiologist. He nods.

ANTHASITOIGIST
Take a deep breath and just relax.

Sophie takes a deep breath. The anesthesiologist inserts
the needle in Sophie's back. Sophie quickly inhales.

SOPHIE
(barely a whisper)
Holy Fuck. Just pressure.

The technician smiles down at Sophie.

ANTHASITOIGIST
Just lay still for now.

The anesthesiologist walks out of the room.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

RING:

Chad is in the ring with his opponent. The stands are full.
The crowd is spirited. Chad and his opponent dance around
each other, they stalk each other.

ANNOUNCER
And which way will this fight go?
We all waiting to see who will take
control.

Chad's opponent gets a vicious combination in. When Chad is
hit a memory flash takes over for a moment.

FLASHBACK

*A young Chad is leaning over his bed, his pants are around
his ankles. A father figure pounds into him from behind.
The younger Chad whimpers in pain.*

BACK TO RING

Chad's focus returns to the ring just in time to block a
right hook.

AUDIENCE:

In the front row Mom sits next to a vacant seat.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

The doctor slices a clean line across Sophie's pregnant stomach.

SOPHIE
Is my baby okay?

NURSE
We will know in just a few minutes,
Sophie.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Chad sits in his corner. His face is swollen. Mike cuts his eye.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

The sterile operating room is covered with bloodied gauze that has been tossed on the floor. The nurse sponges down the doctor's face. The doctor looks concerned.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Chad gets a solid combination in. The BELL RINGS.

ANNOUNCER
And we have a fight on our hands,
fans. Miller comes back in round
four after a painful round three.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

The nurse looks to the doctor with concern. The doctor looks at the anesthesiologist.

DOCTOR
How is she?

ANESTHESIOLOGIST
Blood pressure is dropping.

SOPHIE
What's wrong?

The Doctor keeps her focus on the surgical area.

DOCTOR
Sophie, you're losing a lot of blood.
We may need to put you under a general
anesthesia to finish the procedure.

SOPHIE

No. Just do what you need to. I'm stronger than you think.

The Doctor looks over to the anesthesiologist and nods his head.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

Chad looks dazed after he takes a blow from his opponent. His focus seems to have shifted elsewhere.

FLASHBACK

The father figure is still behind the younger Chad. He slaps Chad upside the head.

FATHER

What have I told you? You don't ever want anyone to do this to your sister, right?

YOUNG CHAD

No, Sir.

FATHER

It's your job, Chad, to make sure no one ever treats her like this. She's just a girl.

BACK TO RING

Chad's opponent is in his face, looking deep in his eyes trying to figure out what is going on with Chad. The opponent pauses and then punches Chad in the kidney area with a right hook, then an upper cut from his left knocks Chad into his other world.

FLASHBACK

YOUNG CHAD

I'll take care of her, sir.

The father figure pulls back, pulls his pants up and zips them.

FATHER FIGURE

Now, not a word.

The father figure steps out of the room. Chad pulls himself up on the bed and curls into the fetal position.

Chad's mom quietly enters the room, she walks over to Chad and gently pushes some hair off his face.

MOM

*Let's take a bath, sweetie, that'll
make you feel all better. You just
need to hold it together, dear.
Just hold it together.*

*Chad and his mom do not see that Sophie peeks in from the
slightly open door.*

END FLASHBACK

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

The doctor pulls a baby out of Sophie. There is a very sterile silence. The baby does not cry. Everything and everyone are still.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

RING:

Chad pulls back from his opponent. The crowd is confused. The noise of the crowd and from announcers blends into a dull white noise and then silence.

Chad raises his hands up to the heavens.

AUDIENCE:

Mom is confused. She stands up. She talks to herself.

MOM

*Chad, what is it? What is happening
to you, sweetie? Chad, oh Chad.
Hold it together, dear. Just hold
it together.*

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

Clean silence continues. Out of the silence Sophie lets out a WAR CRY.

INT. GLITZY AUDITORIUM -- NIGHT

RING:

Chad falls to his knees. His arms remain up and he continues to look up to the ceiling. His opponent steps back and looks towards the referee. The referee looks towards the judges. The judges look at each other. The audience stands up and yells at Chad. The audience starts throwing cups, etc. at Chad.

Chad starts to sob like a little boy.

AUDIENCE:

Mom gets up and moves right up to the ring.

Ring.

Mom reaches her arms out to Chad.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- NIGHT

Sophie lies silently. A FRAGILE CRY comes from the baby followed by a SWEET CRY from Sophie.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Sophie's mom sits in a rocking chair next to Sophie in her hospital bed. Sophie's mom is holding the baby. The baby is connected to a small oxygen tank.

MOM

He needs a name, you know.

SOPHIE

I know.

MOM

Well?

SOPHIE

Well?

MOM

Do you have any thoughts?

SOPHIE

I have A thought.

MOM

Yes?

Sophie reaches out for her baby.

SOPHIE

Will.

Mom gives the baby a kiss on the forehead and hands him over to Sophie.

MOM

No. Don't do that.

SOPHIE

Excuse me?

Mom gets up and walks to the window.

MOM

We need to move on.

SOPHIE

I need to honor his father. His name is Will.

Sophie puts her baby to her breast.

MOM

I beg you to reconsider.

SOPHIE

And I beg you to accept Will's son, my son, Will.

MOM

It isn't me that you need to be concerned with.

INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Mom is cleaning up Chad's kitchen. There are dishes with food dried on them. There are opened cans on the counter with lids randomly thrown around. Crushed beer cans are on the counter and on the floor. Mom wipes her wet hands on her beige polyester pants and straightens her white and yellow striped shirt.

INT. CHAD'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Mom opens the door and cautiously steps into Chad's bedroom. There are clothes everywhere. Crushed beer cans everywhere. The dresser drawers are pulled out with clothes hanging from them. His trophies have been knocked over. The sheets on the bed have been pulled away and there appears to be a pile of blankets on the bed.

Mom walks over to the bed and pulls back one of the blankets.

There is Chad.

Chad looks like he has been living on the streets for a couple weeks. He hasn't shaved or showered. Mom tenderly caresses his face as a tear runs down her cheek. She sits down on the bed.

MOM

Chad.

Chad doesn't move. Doesn't open his eyes.

CHAD

(scratchy voice)

Go away.

Mom lays down in bed and wraps her arms around Chad and gently rocks him. Chad's back is to mom, she spoons him.

Chad starts to tear up.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Mom, why didn't you do anything to stop dad?

MOM

I did Chad. I waited too long. I didn't want to believe what was happening. But finally I stopped him.

Mom continues to gently rock Chad as random tears slip down their cheeks.

MOM (CONT'D)

I am sorry, Chad.

CHAD

I'm bad, just like dad.

MOM

No, no you are not.

Chad rolls over and faces his mom.

CHAD

I am. I just hurt people differently. But I hurt them all the same. I destroy, just like dad destroyed me.

Tears start flowing.

MOM

You'll be okay. You are my baby.

CHAD

Just like with dad, you don't want to believe it.

MOM

I believe you are my wonderful son.

CHAD

I killed Will.

Mom stops rocking Chad and is frozen. The she starts to rock Chad faster, with determination.

MOM

That is in the past. We can't change that now. We must move on.

CHAD

Did you hear me? I killed the father
of your daughter's baby.

MOM

No one must ever know. It will not
make anything better for anyone to
ever find out. Are you clear on
this? I will take care of you, all
you have to do is to never tell anyone
what you just told me.

CHAD

I can't mom. It is tearing me up.
I have to admit to what I did.

MOM

No. It will destroy our family.
And I will not let that happen.

Chad pulls himself away from his mom and gets up. He has
soiled sweat pants on. He grabs a shirt from the floor and
puts it on.

Mom stands up and walks over to him.

MOM (CONT'D)

You stink.

Chad walks out of the bedroom. A few seconds later the SHOWER
starts.

INT. CHAD'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Mom makes some tea. A clean Chad walks in.

MOM

Well, don't you look nice.

CHAD

I'm going to the police.

Mom freezes.

MOM

What are you going to tell them?

CHAD

Everything.

Mom's back is to Chad. Mom faces the counter, Chad is behind
her.

MOM

I beg you Chad, don't do this.

Chad walks toward the door.

Mom deliberately puts her hand on a butcher knife, next to the sink on the counter.

MOM (CONT'D)

Chad....

Chad puts his hand on the door. Mom walks behind. She hesitates, then she hugs Chad from behind. Chad gasps. Mom gasps. Mom slowly drops to the ground with Chad. She pulls the knife out. Chad turns and looks to his mom, questioning.

MOM (CONT'D)

I am so sorry.

CHAD

Why?

MOM

Some secrets have to remain secrets,
Chad.

CHAD

Mom, some secrets hurt too much.

Chad's shirt has risen up. Mom puts the point of the knife up to Chad's abdomen. There is blood dripping from the first incision. The tip of the knife punctures Chad's skin.

MOM

I love you too much to let you do
this.

Mom puts pressure on the knife and it tears through Chad's abdomen. Blood squirts out. Mom pulls the knife out. Mom caresses Chad with her bloodied hands. She cries. Chad GURGLLES.

MOM (CONT'D)

I just love you so much.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Mom steps outside the front door. She picks up the newspaper. Looks at the front page and steps inside.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Sophie rocks her baby asleep in a rocking chair in the living room. Mom places the paper on the coffee table and takes the baby from Sophie. Mom cuddles the baby as she walks towards the bassinet and places the baby in the bassinet.

Sophie picks up the paper. Next to the headlines is a sidebar. "BOXER ATTACKED JUST WEEKS AFTER BREAKDOWN."

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- MORNING

Chad lays in the hospital bed. His head is bandaged. There is a lost look in his eyes. Mom walks in. Chad looks at her with confusion. Mom sits down next to Chad. There is Jell-O on Chad's nightstand. Mom takes the Jell-O and starts feeding him.

MOM

I'm here to take care of you.

Sophie steps into the hospital room.

SOPHIE

How is he?

MOM

The same. He's in there someplace, but I don't think that he will ever come out here with the rest of the world again.

Mom gets up and grabs her purse.

MOM (CONT'D)

I have some shopping. You visit for awhile.

Sophie gives her mom a kiss on the cheek and sits down next to Chad. Mom leaves. Sophie starts to hum and strokes the hair on Chad's forehead.

SOPHIE

Maybe you needed to forgive yourself more than you needed me to forgive you.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE -- DAY

Sophie hums to herself as she folds laundry into different piles on the couch. Her baby sleeps soundly in a bassinet right by the couch. Sophie pulls up the yellow and white striped shirt of her moms to fold. As she holds it up, there is a huge blood stain on the front of it. She drops the top and picks up the beige polyester pants of her moms from the pile to be folded. She holds the pants up and sees spatters of blood on them.

Sophie sits down on the couch. Off-balance, she knocks over a pile of folded clothes.

EXT. SOPHIE'S OLD APARTMENT -- DAY

Sophie stands outside the front door. Her baby is in a carrier and there are a few pieces of luggage, back pack too full with school books to close, and a huge diaper bag. Mike, the geek from the office answers the door.

MIKE

Hey, Sophie.

He looks down at the luggage.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey?

SOPHIE

I thought maybe I could crash back here for a while.

Danielle comes to the door. She looks down at the luggage.

DANIELLE

Oh, things not working out, living with Grandma?

SOPHIE

One could say that.

Uncomfortable silence.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

So I thought maybe I could have my old room back for awhile.

Danielle looks at Mike.

DANIELLE

Sure, that could work.

No one moves.

SOPHIE

Then do you think I could get some help with all this shit?

They laugh. Mike grabs the luggage. Danielle grabs the baby in the carrier.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

And there's more...in the car.

Sophie is talking to herself. Danielle and Mike are inside playing with the baby.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I'll just get it myself.

INT. BEDROOM - SOPHIE'S -- DAY

Sophie is asleep in her bed. Her baby sleeps in her arms. Danielle tip toes in with a wrapped present. She sits on the edge of the bed and admires the beauty of mother and child. Sophie stirs and slowly wakes.

DANIELLE
(whispers)
Happy Birthday, Chica.

Danielle hands the present over to Sophie.

SOPHIE
(whispers)
You didn't have to get me anything.

Sophie unwraps the present. She starts to cry, just a little.

DANIELLE
(whispers)
I didn't want to make you sad!

The baby, little Will, wakes with a smile and roots around for his mother's breast. Sophie hands the present back to Danielle as she puts little Will to her breast.

SOPHIE
Thank you.

DANIELLE
I love you, Sophie.

Danielle pulls the framed picture out of the wrapping paper. She sits down next to Sophie and little Will, and puts the picture on the nightstand. It is Sophie and Will in each others arms on the dance floor one year earlier on Sophie's Birthday.

THE END

Vita

Sandra Sharp Dummit was born in Rantoul, Illinois and received her B.A. from Sacramento State College.